

FISHING REGULATIONS

NEW

Fishing Lines Magazine

page 19

- ▶ **Hooked A Bird?**
page 7
- ▶ **Saltwater Slams and State Records**
page 16
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page 17

Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: January 1, 2016

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Tom Gordy and sons Best and Bask show results of red tide toxins found on Gulf County beaches, Sept. 30, 2015. See MyFWC.com/Research.



Photo by Anna Gordy

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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
MyFWC.com

Division of Marine Fisheries Management
2590 Executive Center Circle East
Berkeley Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850-487-0554

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**. For more information, see page 21.

On the cover

Brianna Burns in St. Marks, Florida uses "Fishing Lines" magazine to learn about bay scallops.

Photograph by Dan Ellinor

Have a picture for the cover?
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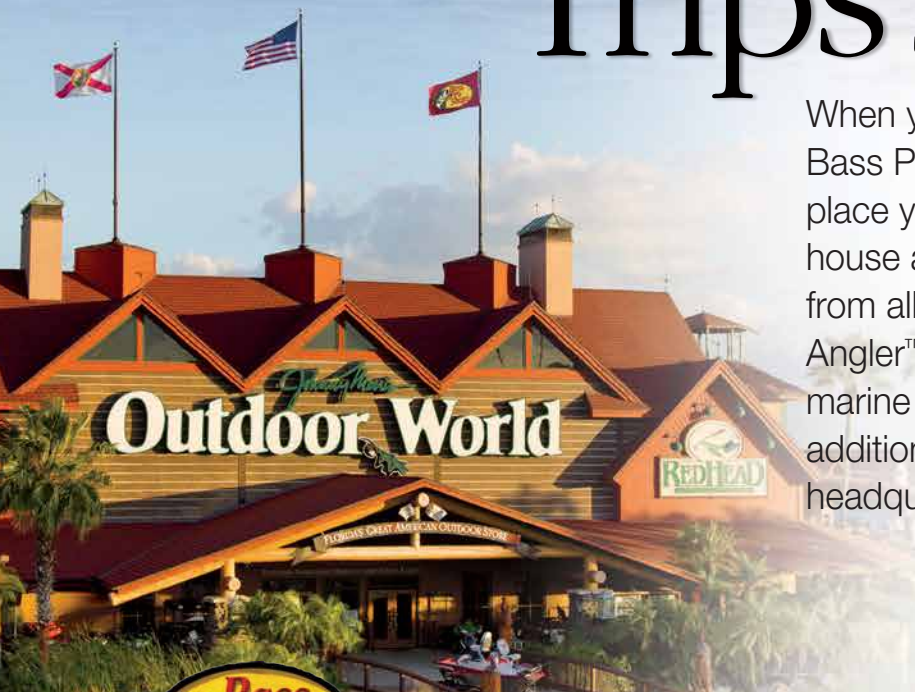
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Introduction

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."

How your license fee helps

The money collected from saltwater fishing licenses is used to improve and restore fish habitat and for marine fisheries research, law enforcement and public education on marine resources. An additional \$.50 fee will be charged for any license or permit not purchased directly from the county tax collector. Obtain immediate license privileges, 24 hours a day, at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com or by calling toll-free 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Processing fees will apply to telephone and Internet sales.

2016 Commission meeting dates and locations

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

- Feb. 10–11, 2016 — Tallahassee
- April 13–14, 2016 — Jupiter
- June 21–23, 2016 — St. Petersburg

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

2016 Shows and Events

Visit the FWC booth at these upcoming events to pick up your copy of the *Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations and Fishing Lines: Angler's Guide to Florida's Marine Resources*. For more information call 850-487-0554 or visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater" and "Outreach and Education Programs."

Shows and Expositions

Jan. 23–24, Florida Sportsman Expo, Ft. Pierce

Jan. 30–31, Florida Sportsman Expo, Ft. Myers

Feb. 4–15, Florida State Fair, Tampa

March 4–6, News Channel 8 Outdoor Expo

July 13, ICAST, Orlando

October 8–9, Florida Sportsman Expo, Tampa

Oct. TBD, FWRI's Marine Quest, St. Petersburg

Kids' Fishing Clinics

Feb. 27, Crystal River
March 12, Naples
March 26, Daytona
April 9, Pensacola
April 16, Weeki Wachee
May 21, Fernandina Beach
June 26, Port Canaveral
July 9, Palm Coast

Women's Fishing Clinics

Women's Fishing Clinics will be held in March, April, May, and June. Dates and locations have not been determined at this time. Please see: MyFWC.com for more information or contact the FWC - Division of Marine Fisheries Management at: 850-487-0554.



2016 License-Free Saltwater Fishing Days!

- June 4–5
- Sept. 3
- Nov. 26



About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Marine Fisheries Management through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the FWC staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

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Welcome and thanks for picking up this edition of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Saltwater Regulations publication.

This regulations booklet comes out twice a year and is packed with information that will help you understand Florida's basic recreational saltwater fishing regulations. If you will be fishing in state waters of Florida, this is an excellent and handy resource to keep in your tackle box and help you stay in compliance.

In an effort to keep you up-to-date, several of the sections have been recently modified to clarify the rules related to harvest gear, spearfishing and the harvest of sharks.

Recently, there have been quite a few unscheduled recreational closures that apply in federal waters. Based on the calls we are receiving, many anglers are struggling to understand how these closures work and whether or not these federal closures also apply in state waters.

With the exception of tripletail, all of the reef fish and pelagic species on pages 9 and 10 are managed by FWC in state waters

(within 3 nautical miles of shore on the Atlantic and within 9 nautical miles on the Gulf) and by our federal fishery partners in federal waters (beyond 3 and 9 mile boundary lines).

If one of these species closes in federal waters, FWC may or may not also close the fishery in state waters, and because a species can be closed at any time of the year, this printed guide might not always include unscheduled closures.

In an effort to help you stay informed about in-season closures, FWC has modified several of our reef fish species webpages to include both state and federal waters regulations for the Gulf and Atlantic, making MyFWC.com a one-stop shop for your regulatory informational needs. If you hear that a species is closed, but you aren't sure if it is closed in both state and federal waters, a quick visit to MyFWC.com/Fishing should clarify that for you.

Tech savvy? Download our new FWC licensing app, which also includes the regulations and is available on Apple and Android devices by searching FWC. You can also use the "AskFWC" system (see link near top of MyFWC.com) or contact the FWC - Division of Marine Fisheries Management by phone at 850-487-0554 and we will be happy to assist

you. Interested in the latest changes only? Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter, "Fishing in the Know," by clicking on the red envelope at MyFWC.com.

If you are planning to fish for reef fish or pelagic species in federal waters of the Gulf, we encourage you to also visit GulfCouncil.org or download the Gulf Council App for Apple and Android phones. If you will be fishing for reef fish or pelagic species in federal waters of the Atlantic, please visit the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council website at SAFMC.net and download the South Atlantic Council App for the most current regulations that apply in Atlantic federal waters.

Thanks again for picking up this edition of the FWC Saltwater Fishing Regulations. Happy fishing!

Jessica McCawley

Director, Marine Fisheries Management,
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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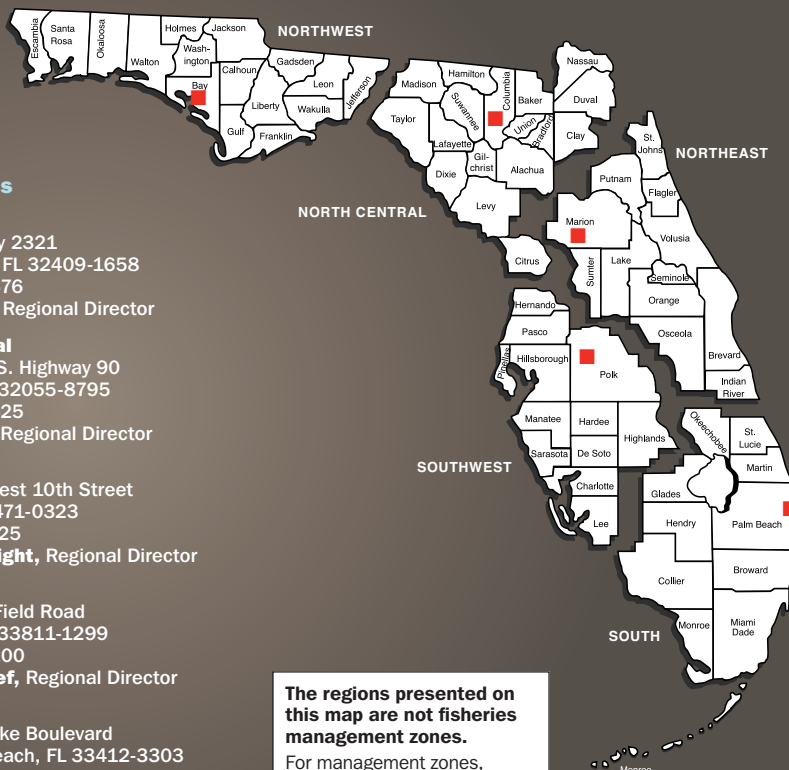
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The regions presented on this map are not fisheries management zones.

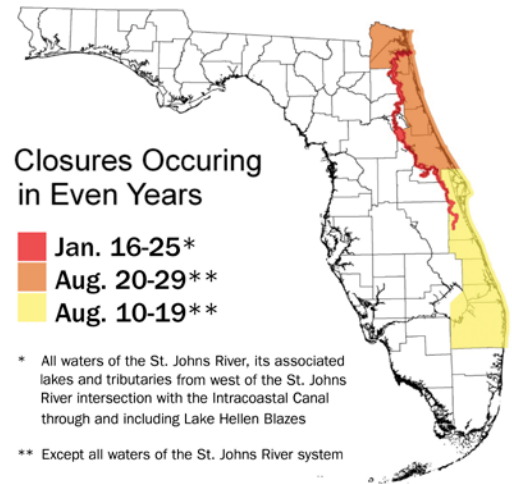
For management zones, please see page 6.

Know Your Management Zones

For most species, Florida's recreational bag limits apply to all state waters off Florida, which extend out to 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic and out to 9 nautical miles on the Gulf. The maps below provide information regarding three species that have specific management zones where bag limits or rules vary by region. Great barracuda (map not included) also has a new bag limit of two fish per person and six per vessel that applies within all state and federal waters off Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties. Barracuda is not specifically regulated in other areas.

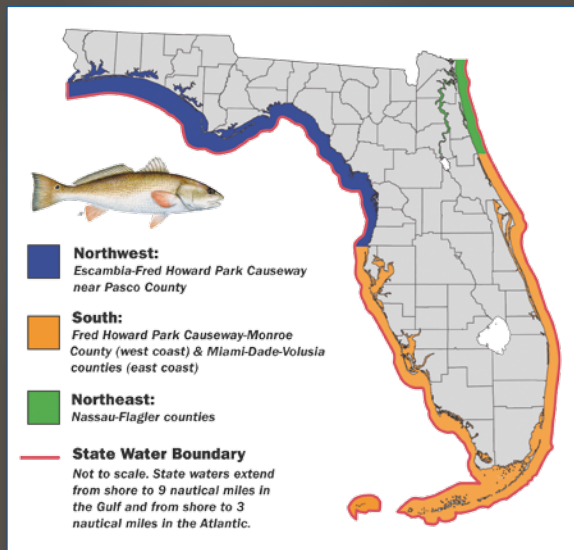
Blue Crab Trap Closures

The blue crab trap closure map identifies the regions and time-frames where recreational traps must be removed from the water or tied to private property. Crabbing can continue during a trap closure period with other legal gear or with traps that are attached to private property. For more information on trap closures please visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Blue-Crab.



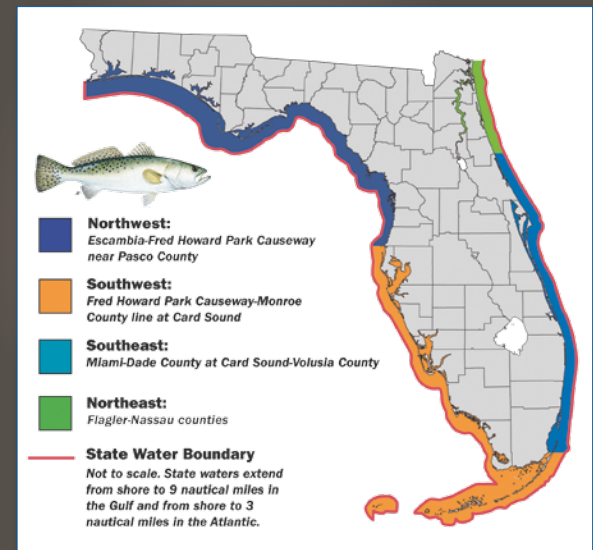
Red Drum Management Zones

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



Spotted Seatrout Management Zones

Spotted seatrout has four management zones and the recreational bag limit is six fish in the northeast region, five fish in the northwest region, and four fish in the southeast and southwest zones.



Hooked a Bird? Don't Cut the Line!

If you are a fisherman, you may hook a seabird or wading bird by accident. Then what to do? First, don't panic and cut the line! This is important. Because when a bird flies away with a hook and line attached, it often becomes entangled in trees. That can injure or kill the bird. And once the line is snared where birds roost, it can catch and kill even more birds.

If you hook a bird — or find one that is hooked or entangled — take these steps for safe rescue and release:

1. Reel the bird in slowly. Do not attempt to shake it loose, which can increase chances of injury. If you are on a pier or bridge, lift the bird from the water using a hoop net.
2. If the bird has swallowed the hook or is severely injured, contact a local wildlife rehabilitator. For wildlife rehabilitators in your area, call any of FWC's five regional offices listed on page 5. Otherwise follow the steps below to unhook a seabird.
3. Wear safety glasses for protection and enlist a partner to help.
4. Grasp the bird by the head just behind the eyes and fold the wings against the body. For pelicans, hold the beak but keep the mouth slightly open so it can breath.
5. Cover the birds head with a cloth to keep it calm.
6. If the bird is hooked and the barb is exposed, either mash down the barb with pliers and back it out or cut off either end of the hook so it can be easily removed. If the tip and barb are not exposed, push the hook through so that it can be cut above the barb and removed.

7. If the bird is entangled, gently remove all line from the bird.
8. If the bird seems healthy, place it on the ground near the water and allow the bird to take off on its own.

How else can you help a seabird or wading bird?

1. Don't feed the birds. Feeding birds teaches them to approach fishermen, where they are more likely to be hooked.
2. Birds also generally eat small fish whole and can easily digest small bones, but the bigger bones of a filleted fish can tear throats, stomachs and intestines. Dispose of filleted bones where birds can't get them — in a trash can with lid or at home.
3. Cover bait buckets.
4. Dispose of fishing line in a monofilament recycling bin or else cut into small pieces (3 inches or smaller) 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 other fishermen learn what to do when they accidentally catch a bird. It's pretty easy, once you know how.

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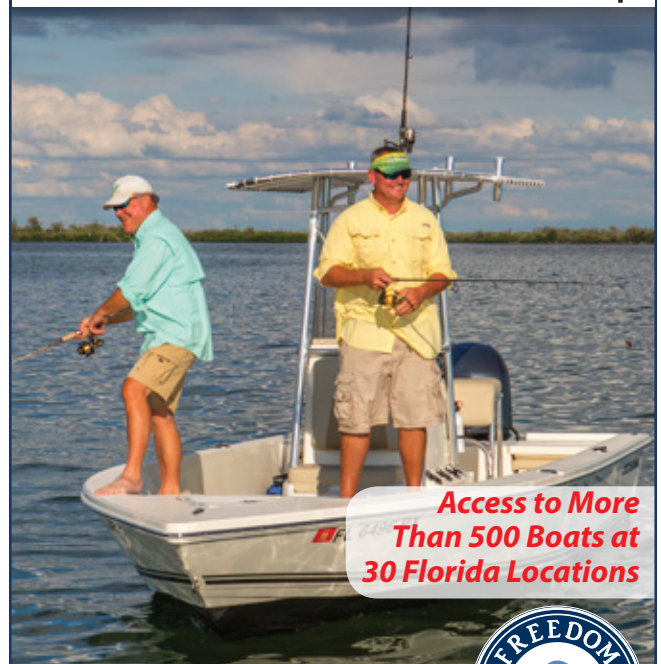
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Improving Gulf Reef Fish Data Starts With You

Are you a Gulf reef fish angler? The Gulf Reef Fish Survey is a program designed to collect better recreational harvest data from anglers targeting several species of Gulf reef fish. This program helps the FWC determine how many people fish for Gulf reef fish and directly contact Gulf reef fish anglers to get better information about their fishing activity. If you plan on taking a fishing trip in the Gulf of Mexico for reef fish this year, read on to learn more about this important program.

Who should sign up for the Gulf Reef Fish Survey?

Signing up is mandatory for anglers (including those 65 and older) fishing in the Gulf of Mexico (excluding Monroe County) from a private boat, who plan to harvest, possess or land any of the following reef fish: red and vermilion snapper; gag, black and red grouper; gray triggerfish; greater and lesser amberjack; banded rudderfish; and almaco jack. If you are a Gulf reef fish angler and haven't yet signed up, please do so today! The process is easy and no-cost and helps the FWC paint a clearer picture of how many people are targeting Gulf reef fish.

If you are fishing from a for-hire vessel, you do not need to sign up for the Gulf Reef Fish Survey. Anglers under 16 years of age and those fishing from a vessel that has a vessel recreational fishing license also do not need to sign up.

How do I sign up?

To sign up, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com and click "Purchase a License" and add "Gulf Reef Fish Angler" to your cart. You can also sign up at any retailer such as tackle shops, sporting goods stores and tax collector offices or by phone at 1-888-FISHFLORIDA (347-4356).

Renewal is on an annual basis, just like a one-year fishing license.

Are you a Florida resident 65 or older and exempt from needing a recreational saltwater fishing license? No worries! Though you are still required to click "Purchase a License," signing up as a "Gulf Reef Fish Angler" is no-cost. You are not required to purchase any other license, such as a recreational saltwater fishing license, or pay any other fees to sign up for the Gulf Reef Fish Survey.

How does the Gulf Reef Fish Survey collect information from anglers?

Throughout the year, FWC researchers will mail a subset of anglers who have signed up for the Gulf Reef Fish Survey a brief questionnaire about their recent fishing trips targeting Gulf reef fish. Anglers are not required to fill out these questionnaires, but participation will help improve recreational data. The FWC asks that anglers return surveys even if you have no fishing trips to report.

Need more information?

Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater," "Recreational Regulations" and "Gulf Reef Fish Survey." On this website, we have a video showing how you can sign up online, background information on the Gulf Reef Fish Survey program, and a link to a Frequently Asked Questions page. You can also call the Division of Marine Fisheries Management at 850-487-0554.





Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Issued: January 2016

New regulations are highlighted in red

Regulations apply to state waters of the Gulf and Atlantic
(please visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational
for the most current regulations)

All art: © Diane Rome Peebles, except snowy grouper (Duane Raver)

Reef Fish

Snapper (Gulf reef fish anglers — see page 8)

General Snapper Regulations:

- Within state waters of the Atlantic and Gulf, the snapper aggregate bag limit is 10 fish per harvester unless the species rule specifies that it is not included in the aggregate. This means that a harvester can retain a total of 10 snappers in any combination of species. Exceptions are noted below.
- If no season information is included, the species is open year-round.

All Other Snapper ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Remarks

- Includes: Blackfin, Dog, Mahogany, Queen, Silk and Yellowtail



Snapper, Cubera ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see remarks)

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Remarks

- May possess no more than 2 over 30" per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less. 30" or larger not included within the snapper aggregate bag limit.



Snapper, Red ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- **Gulf - See MyFWC.com for 2016 season**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester

Remarks

- Gulf - Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.



Snapper, Vermilion ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester
- Gulf - 10 per harvester

Remarks

- **Not** included within the snapper aggregate bag limit.



Snapper, Lane ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 8"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds (see remarks)

Remarks

- Gulf not included within the snapper aggregate bag limit.



Snapper, Gray (Mangrove) ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester



Snapper, Mutton ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 16"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester



Snapper, Schoolmaster ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester



Snapper, Black & Wenchman ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

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 aggregate bag limit is 3 fish, which means that no harvester shall retain more than 3 Atlantic groupers 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 is 4 fish which means that no harvester can retain more than 4 Gulf grouper in any combination of species.
- Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels applies to gag, black, and red grouper only.

Season Information:

- If no season information is provided, the species is open year-round.



Grouper, Black ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 22"

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 ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 22"

Seasons:

- Atlantic - Closed: Jan. 1-April 30
- Gulf - State waters off Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties: Open April 1-June 30
- Gulf - State waters off all other counties: Open July 1-Dec. 3

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Grouper, Red ▲◆●

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 person

Other Grouper ▲◆●

Other Grouper includes:

- Tiger, Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney and Graysby

Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



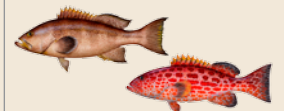
Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



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

Reef Fish

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



Amberjack, Greater ▲●

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Closed June 1-July 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester



Red Porgy ▲◆◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 14"
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds



Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish ▲●

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



Tilefish, Golden ▲●

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

- Golden tilefish included within Atlantic and Gulf Grouper aggregate bag limits



Black Sea Bass ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 13"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 5 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester



Great Barracuda ▲◆■

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per person and 6 per vessel applies only in state and federal waters off Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties.
- Unregulated in all other areas.



Triggerfish (Gray) ▲●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12" fork length
- Gulf - 14" fork length

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Closed June 1-July 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 2 per harvester



Hogfish ▲●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per harvester

Pelagics



Billfish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per day 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 per day



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 per day

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.



Cobia (Ling) ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 33" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed 6 per vessel per day



Mackerel, King ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day

Remarks

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



Tripletail ▲◆†

Minimum Size Limits:

- 15"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day

Remarks

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



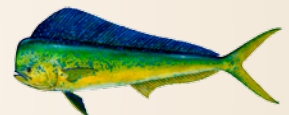
Mackerel, Spanish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester per day



Dolphinfin ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20" fork length
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day. Vessel limit does not apply to 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

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:

- 10 per harvester per day



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 day

Remarks

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



Black Drum ▲ ◆ ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 14" or more than 24"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester per day

Remarks

- May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited.



Blue Runner ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 100 fish per harvester per day



Snook (All species) ▲ ◆ ■

Minimum 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 per day

Remarks

- Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. See MyFWC.com for snook permit details. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.



Flounder ▲ ◆ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester per day

Remarks

- May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.



Bonefish ■

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 0 per harvester per day

Remarks

- Catch and release only
- Hook and line only



Spotted Seatrout ● ▲ ◆ ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 15" or more than 20" (See remarks)

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester per day N.W. Zone
- 4 per harvester per day S.W. Zone
- 4 per harvester per day S.E. Zone
- 6 per harvester per day N.E. Zone

Remarks

- May possess no more than 1 over 20"; included in the regional bag limit. See management zone map at MyFWC.com.



Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver

Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum size

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Pompano, African ● ▲ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel per day



Permit ● ▲ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Closed Season:

- May 1-July 31 SPZ Only

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel per day SPZ;
- 2 per harvester per day 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.



Pompano, Florida ▲ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 11" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 6 per harvester per day

Remarks

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



Sheepshead ● ▲ ◆ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester per day

Remarks

- Snatching prohibited



Tarpon ● ■

Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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



Red Drum (Redfish) ▲ ◆ ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 18" or more than 27"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day in NE and NW zones, 1 per harvester per day in S zone. See map at MyFWC.com.
- Vessel limit of 8 fish, on-shore possession limit during transport 6 fish

Remarks

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

Can't find your fish in the regulations?

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



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 and blackfin tuna.

- ▲ 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.

Crustaceans and Mollusks

Bay Scallops



Season:

- Open June 25–Sept. 24, 2016

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester per day; no more than 10 gallons whole, or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime

Remarks

- Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Pasco-Hernando county line, to the west bank of the Mexico Beach Canal in Bay County. It is illegal to harvest, possess and land bay scallops on waters outside open harvest area.



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 per day, whichever is less

Remarks

- Visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "Saltwater", "Regulations" and "Shrimp" for additional regulations specific to Dade, Nassau and Duval

Spiny Lobster



Minimum Size Limit:

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

Seasons:

- Sport Season Open July 27–28, 2016
- Regular Season Closes on March 31, 2016 Reopens Aug. 6, 2016

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Sport Season: 6 per harvester per day in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 per day 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:

- 2¾" claw

Closed Season:

- May 16–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.



Crab, Blue

Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. See MyFWC.com for 2016 trap closure dates and locations.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 gallons whole per harvester per day

Remarks

- 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

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.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay

Remarks

- **Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.**
- Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas.
- 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.

Sharks

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.
- See list of prohibited species below.

Retainable Sharks with a 54" fork length minimum ▲↑

Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako.



Bull



Common Thresher



Nurse



Spinner

Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ▲↑



Atlantic Sharpnose



Blacknose



Blacktip



Bonnethead



Finetooth



Smooth Dogfish

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, Great Hammerhead Shark, Scalloped and Smooth Hammerhead Shark, Manta Ray, Devil Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Sturgeon, Queen Conch, Calico Scallop, Stony, Hard 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.

Use New FWC App to Buy Your License and Ask for the Hard Card!

Buying a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) license has never been easier or more convenient with the new Fish-Hunt-FL application for Android, Apple and Windows smartphone devices.



This interactive app allows you to purchase any recreational fishing or hunting license offered by the FWC, and you can also store a copy of your license on your phone, check out recent FWC news, look at the current sunrise/sunset time for your area, check the coastal waters forecasts and look up hunting and fishing regulations. Download the free app today by searching FWC in the App Store or Google Play. Click on the "Purchase a License" option on the app or, to purchase a license online or learn more about FWC's license types, please visit: GoOutdoorsFlorida.com.

While paper licenses have served the purpose for a long time, many anglers prefer a durable credit card style license (hard-card) that

easily fits in your wallet with all the other cards. The fact that it's waterproof makes it a great option for those who spend time on the water. Last year, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) began selling \$4 hard-card licenses to those purchasing one-year licenses; prior to this, only those who got 5-year or lifetime licenses were able to purchase a hard-card. And to top it off, the new licenses feature art donated by Guy Harvey. Printing for these new cards began in September 2014 and the newest design features dolphinfish. The original card, which has sold out, featured Florida's state saltwater fish, the sailfish. "We wanted to feature a species that is beautiful and easy to catch," said Brenda Brand, who

works in the FWC Office of Licensing and Permitting.

"My son went crazy over it," Brand said. "He feels like he has something adult, a pre-driver's license," she said about her 15-year-old. "It also allows him to show his support for conservation!"

If you intend to fish for Gulf reef fish, don't forget to add the Gulf reef fish angler designation to your license. This is a relatively new requirement that became mandatory on April 1, 2015. To learn more about this designation and the Gulf Reef Fish Survey, see Page 8 or visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater," "Recreational" and "Gulf Reef Fish Survey" under "Regulations."

Be a part of the *Our Florida Reefs* conversation

Attend a community meeting at either 12-2 p.m. or 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, January 26

Indian River State College
Chastain Campus
2400 SE Salerno Rd
Stuart, FL 34997

Wednesday, January 27

Amara Shriner's Temple Auditorium
3650 RCA Blvd
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Friday, January 29

Delray Beach City Library
100 W. Atlantic Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Tuesday, February 16

Holiday Park Social Center
1150 G. Harold Martin Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Wednesday, February 17

Neuman Alumni Center
UM/Coral Gables Campus
6200 San Amaro Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Thursday, February 18

Kovens Conference Center
FIU/Biscayne Bay Campus
3000 NE 151st Street, North
Miami, FL 33181



Our Florida Reefs is a community planning process for the future of southeast Florida reefs. Learn more at www.OurFloridaReefs.org

Recreational gear

Additional regional gear restrictions may apply in your county. For further clarification, contact the local regional offices listed on page 5.

Reef fish gear rules

(applies to species marked with ● on pages 9–10)

- **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.

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 9 through 12 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, spotted seatrout, weakfish and unregulated species (see p. 11).
- 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.

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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. 12)
- Billfish and swordfish (all species)
- Bonefish
- Crab (blue, stone)
- Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*)
- Permit
- Pompano (Florida and African)
- Red drum
- Sharks (all species including dogfish)
- Snook
- Spotted seatrout
- Tarpon
- Tripletail
- Weakfish
- Marine life species (listed on p. 18)

* 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 above).
- 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, Rebreaters

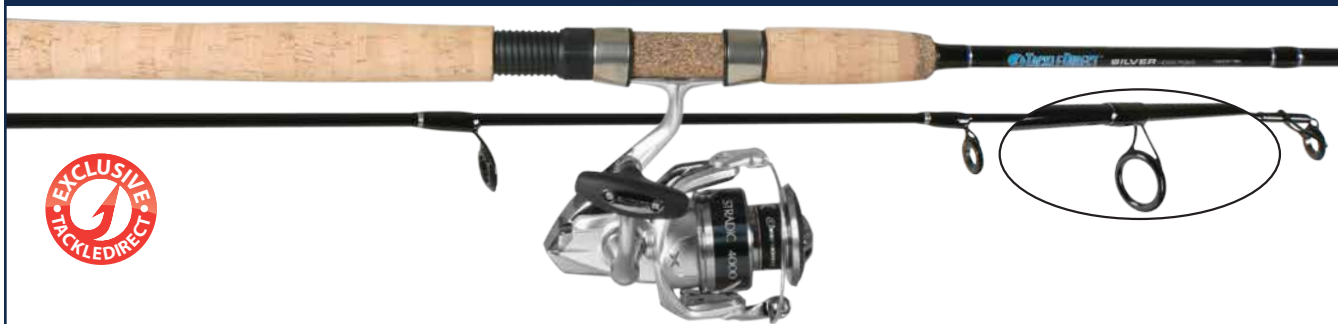
Harvest with the use of powerheads, bangsticks or rebreaters is prohibited in state waters, except that rebreaters are allowed for the harvest of lionfish. Within state waters, powerheads and bangsticks can be used for personal protection only, and cannot be used to harvest any species.

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FWC unveils NEW Saltwater Slams!

Think you have what it takes to catch a new Saltwater Slam? Saltwater Slams challenge anglers to catch three specific fish species in a 24-hour period. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently updated the program by creating nine new slams including a Small Fry Slam for children age 15 and under.

Fishing in Florida is a favorite pastime for millions of anglers. What makes it so special and exciting is not only beautiful places and weather, but the large variety of saltwater species an angler can catch.

The FWC Saltwater Slam program entices anglers to learn more about Florida's vast recreational fishing opportunities by encouraging them to target multiple species during fishing trips. The new slams include:

Inshore Slam:

Red drum, spotted seatrout, flounder

Family Slam:

Any three fish in the same scientific family

Blue Water Slam:

Dolphinfish, sailfish, wahoo

Florida Slam:

Permit, tarpon, bonefish

Shoreline Slam:

Sheepshead, kingfish (whiting), Florida pompano

Reefs and Rubble Slam:

Black sea bass, gag, triggerfish

Nearshore Slam:

Cobia, tripletail, king mackerel

Bay and Estuary Slam:

Mangrove snapper, snook, Spanish mackerel

Small Fry Slam:

(15 and under): Pinfish, grunt, catfish

Congratulations to these Saltwater Slam Certificate Recipients!

Inshore Slam:

James Linn
Trent Peters
Capt. Shawn Waite
Christopher J. Giblin
Tyler Konter
Joshua Burkhardt
Brent Smith
Thomas A. Maize
Kirk Ainslie Perrow
Andrew Scott Harellson
Scott Flamand
Barry F. Kroboth
Art Futch

Family Slam:

Derek Smith
Sonney Forrest
Charlene Forrest
Mandi Waite
Capt. Shawn Waite
Luis Adrian Fornes
Alfred Sowers
Belinda Thomas
Joshua Sowers
Eli Smart
Lynn A. Maize

Shoreline Slam:

Jason Cole
Gavin W. Brock
Nate Durik

Blue Water Slam:

Tom Kelly

Small Fry Slam:

Caitriona Schork

West Florida Slam:

Buddy Kerr
Grady Kerr
Kris Kerr
Thomas J. Sims

East Florida Slam:

Grady Kerr
Thomas J. Sims

South Florida Slam:

Ben Williams

All catches, past and present, are eligible as long as they can be documented and photos of each species are submitted. Successful anglers will receive a certificate signed by both the Executive Director of the FWC and the President of the International Game Fish Association, as well as a colorful shirt in recognition of their achievement. Recipients will also be listed on the MyFWC.com website and in the Saltwater Fishing Regulations Booklet.

As always, FWC encourages responsible angling. Remember proper catch-and-release techniques when fishing. Anglers do not have to harvest their fish to be eligible, and are strongly encouraged to release their catches alive. For more information or to apply for a saltwater slam, visit our website MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater" and "Angler Recognition" or send an email to AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com. Share your saltwater slam photographs and stories with us on Twitter or Instagram by using #FWCSlam.

Florida Saltwater Fishing Records Program

The Florida Saltwater Fishing Records Program is managed by the FWC in partnership with the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). State all-tackle records for the heaviest fishes caught in Florida waters are maintained for 76 marine species in both conventional tackle and fly fishing categories. Almaco jack and vermilion snapper are now eligible and several other species are being considered.

State Record Requirements

- Catches must be made according to FWC and IGFA angling rules.
- Angler's signature on a completed application form must be witnessed by a notary.

- Application must be accompanied by line or tippet samples and photographs, as specified in the IGFA world record requirements found at www.IGFA.org.
- Please note that according to IGFA angling rules, to qualify for a record, the catch must not be at variance with any laws or regulations governing the species or the waters in which it was caught.
- Species that pose a problem of identity require determination by an ichthyologist or qualified fishery biologist

New State Fishing Records!

Since July 2014, there have been two new Florida State Records granted on conventional tackle:

- **Yellowtail Snapper** (*Ocyurus chrysurus*): Jeff Bowles caught a 10 lb. 3 oz. yellowtail snapper while fishing in the Gulf of Mexico out of Naples on Jan. 30, 2015. The previous Florida State Record was 8 lb. 9 oz.
- **Atlantic Bonito** (*Sarda sarda*): Adam Fisk caught a 9 lb. 2 oz. Atlantic bonito from his kayak off Boca Raton on March 22, 2015. The previous Florida State Record was 6 lb. 8 oz.

As always, FWC reminds you to follow the regulations for any species caught and to practice proper catch-and-release techniques when out on the water. For more on current regulations, catch-and-release fishing and proper handling techniques, please visit MyFWC.com.

To learn more about Florida State Records and to apply, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater" and "Angler Recognition," send an email to AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com or contact the FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management by calling 850-487-0554.

Submit your fishing photo to Saltwater@MyFWC.com



Teri Bowman



Tomas Arredondo



Best Gordy



Rosemary White



Jennifer Fulford



Scott Leitz



Dillon Secor



Ben Peirce



Doug "Googan" Ensinger

Marine life regulations

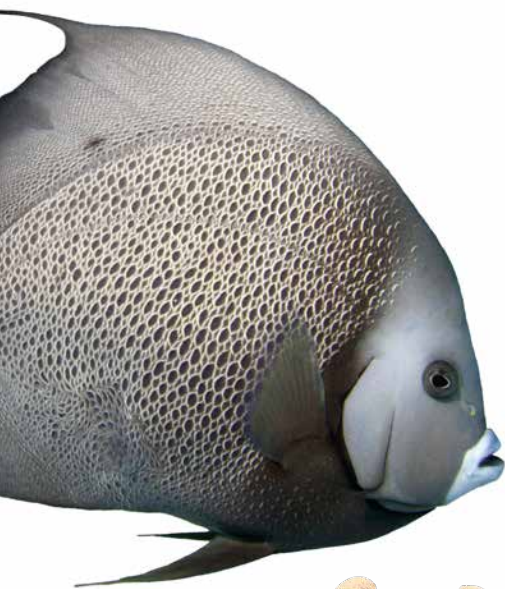
Requirements for marine life (aquarium species) harvest:

- 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 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, 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	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, Feather-duster 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 9–10.
- 3—Bag limit of 2 live shells of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.

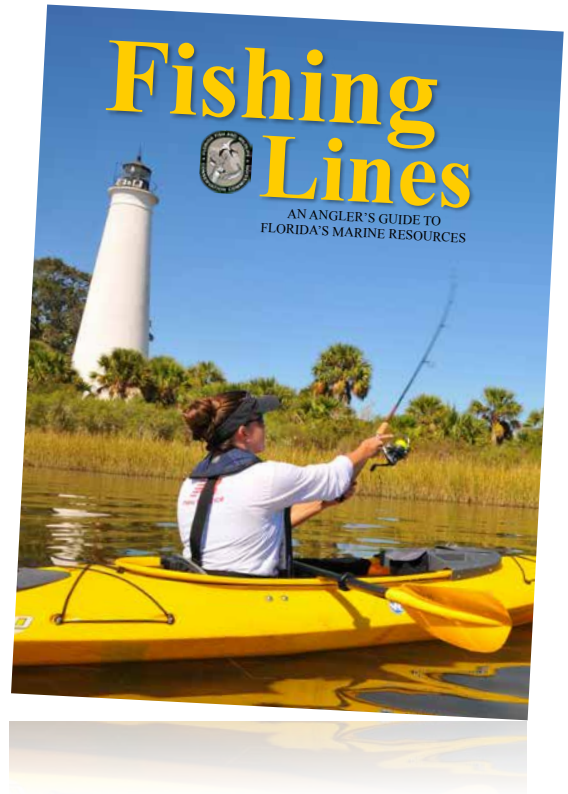
New *Fishing Lines* Magazine Available!

Looking for a fishing guide that teaches the basics? Want something durable and small enough to travel anywhere, yet full of useful information like a fish identification guide, knot tying instructions, a saltwater fishing checklist, habitat descriptions and explanations of catch-and-release techniques? Well, look no further than the newly remodeled version of FWC's *Fishing Lines* magazine!

Fishing Lines magazine will help prepare you for any fishing trip, so you can get the most out of Florida's vast recreational fishing opportunities and learn about the importance of conserving the amazing array of fish and wildlife that call Florida home.

The updated publication will be available for anyone interested in learning more about Florida's marine resources. Best of all, *Fishing Lines* magazine is provided free-of-charge, thanks in part to funding from the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

The new edition of *Fishing Lines* magazine will be available June 2016.



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Costs for licenses

In addition to the cost of licenses and permits specified in this section, license agents may charge an issuance fee for selling licenses or permits. **Note: All sales are final.**

Florida resident licenses

One-Year Saltwater Shoreline Only License	\$0.00
Covers saltwater fishing from shorelines and attached structures. Does not cover fishing from a watercraft, fishing from a shoreline reached by watercraft, or fishing while swimming or diving.	
One-Year Saltwater License	\$17.00
Covers both watercraft and shoreline fishing	
Youth Saltwater Fishing License — valid until 17th birthday	\$17.00
Five-Year Saltwater License	\$79.00
Combination licenses (Florida residents only)	
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater	\$32.50
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater & Hunting	\$48.00
One-Year 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
One-Year Military Gold Sportsman's License	\$20.00

(Offers the same privileges as the Gold Sportsman's License. Available only to Florida residents who are active or retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve, the National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard or the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, upon submission of a current military identification card and proof of Florida residency. Purchase at county tax collector's offices only.)

Lifetime saltwater fishing license (Florida residents only; includes Snook and Lobster Permits)

Age: 0–4	\$126.50
Age: 5–12	\$226.50
Age: 13 or older	\$301.50
Lifetime sportsman license (Florida residents only)	
Age: 0–4	\$401.50
Age: 5–12	\$701.50
Age: 13 or older	\$1,001.50

Non-resident licenses

Three-day License	\$17.00
Seven-day License	\$30.00
One-Year License	\$47.00

Permits

Snook Permit	\$10.00
Five-Year Snook Permit (Florida residents only)	\$50.00
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

If you are required to have a license, even the \$0.00 shoreline license, you are required to purchase permits to harvest Snook and Spiny Lobster.

Saltwater fishing in Florida...

What you must know before you go

Saltwater fishing licenses are sold online at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com, at county tax collectors' offices and at many license agents. Licenses may also be obtained over the telephone by dialing toll-free, 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). An additional fee is charged for telephone and Internet services. For any recreational licensing information not contained in this publication, please go to MyFWC.com/License.

Florida residents

When applying for a saltwater recreational fishing license, you are considered to be a Florida resident if you are:

- 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; or
- Any member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in Florida (includes spouse and dependent children residing in the household).

Gold sportsman's licenses

- Includes:
 - » Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses
 - » Management Area, Archery, Crossbow, Muzzleloading Gun, Turkey, Florida Waterfowl, Deer, Snook and Spiny Lobster permits
- Florida residents may buy a lifetime saltwater fishing license or a lifetime sportsman license. Holders of lifetime saltwater fishing licenses may fish in saltwater for life and will pay no additional fees. The lifetime license fee includes the taking of snook or spiny lobster, which would otherwise require a separate fee. A lifetime sportsman license allows holders to fish in freshwater

or saltwater and to hunt in Florida. Both of the licenses require holders to obey fishing or hunting laws in effect at any given time.

You do not need a license if you are:

- A resident who is 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. 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 Administration must be on your person when fishing.
- A child under 16 years of age.
- Any resident fishing for recreational purposes only, within her or his county of residence with live or natural bait, using poles or lines not equipped with a fishing line retrieval mechanism.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel—guide, charter, party boat—that has a valid charter boat license or charter captain license.
- A holder of a valid saltwater products license.
- A Florida resident 65 years of age or older and you possess proof of age and residency, such as a Florida driver's license or ID, or an optional no-cost Resident Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing Certificate.
- A Florida resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, who is not stationed in this state, while on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders. This does not include family members.
- Any person fishing who has been accepted as a client for developmental disabilities services by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, provided the agency furnishes proof thereof.
- Fishing for recreational purposes from a pier that has a valid pier saltwater fishing license.
- Fishing from a boat that has a valid recreational vessel fishing license.

- A Florida resident who is fishing for mullet in freshwater with a valid Florida *freshwater* fishing license.
- A Florida resident who possesses a no-cost Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate. In order to qualify for this, applicants must provide a certification of total and permanent disability from the United States Armed Forces, Railroad Retirement Board, Florida Worker's Compensation or the United States Veterans Administration. Alternatively, current documentation from the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits also will be accepted.

Other saltwater fishing fees

Licenses (Charter Boat or Charter Captain) are required for all vessels that charge a fee (for-hire vessels) to take passengers out to catch marine fish.

Eleven or more customers	\$801.50
Five to ten customers	\$401.50
Four or fewer customers	\$201.50

Optional fees include the annual Recreational Vessel fee (\$2,001.50) for not-for-hire pleasure craft and the annual Pier license (\$501.50). For charter licensing information, contact your local county tax collector's office or visit MyFWC.com.

**NEW Requirements
for Gulf Reef
Fish Anglers**

See Page 8



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.

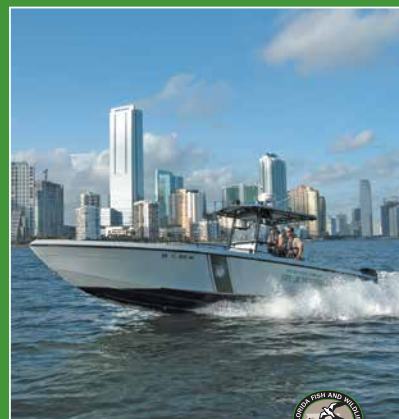
In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife or boating laws are being violated, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cell phone users throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text 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, 850-488-5471
www.floridaaquaculture.com
- **To report lionfish sightings:**
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MyFWC.com/ReportLionfish

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