### Coastal Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Minimum Size Limits</th>
<th>Daily Recreational Bag Limit</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black Drum</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 14&quot; or more than 24&quot;</td>
<td>5 per harvester per day</td>
<td>May possess one over 24&quot;. Snatching prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flounder</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 18&quot; or more than 27&quot;</td>
<td>10 per harvester per day</td>
<td>May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pompano, Florida</strong></td>
<td>13&quot; fork length</td>
<td>6 per harvester per day</td>
<td>Hook and line, cast net, and beach or haul seine ONLY.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheepshead</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 14&quot; or more than 22&quot;</td>
<td>1 per harvester per day</td>
<td>Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Snook (All species)</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 28&quot; or more than 32&quot;</td>
<td>10 per harvester per day</td>
<td>Catch and release only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spotted Seatout</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 15&quot; or more than 20&quot;</td>
<td>100 fish per harvester per day</td>
<td>May possess no more than 1 over 20&quot; included in the regional bag limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bluefin Tuna</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 18&quot; or more than 27&quot;</td>
<td>100 fish per harvester per day</td>
<td>Catch and release only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Great Barracuda</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 30&quot; or more than 32&quot;</td>
<td>1 per harvester per day</td>
<td>Additional gear rules apply, please see: myfwc.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardhead Catfish</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 10&quot; or more than 14&quot;</td>
<td>6 per harvester per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hogfish</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 10&quot; or more than 14&quot;</td>
<td>6 per harvester per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jack Crevalle</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 12&quot; or more than 18&quot;</td>
<td>6 per harvester per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kingfish</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 14&quot; or more than 24&quot;</td>
<td>100 fish per harvester per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permit</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 22&quot; or more than 24&quot;</td>
<td>2 per vessel per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Red Drum (Redfish)</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 18&quot; or more than 22&quot;</td>
<td>15 per harvester per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White Grunt</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 16&quot; or more than 20&quot;</td>
<td>15 per harvester per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mullet, Striped</strong></td>
<td>13&quot; fork length</td>
<td>2 per harvester per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permit</strong></td>
<td>22&quot; fork</td>
<td>2 per vessel per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheephead</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 14&quot; or more than 24&quot;</td>
<td>1 per harvester per day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Remarks**

- State regulations apply in federal waters.
- Must remain in whole condition (removal of gills and guts allowed).
- Additional gear rules apply, please see: myfwc.com
- Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.

**Examples of "unregulated species" include:**

- Ladyfish, bonito, great barracuda, white grunt, southern stingray, gulf kingfish (whiting), pinfish, Atlantic croaker, jack crevalle, cero mackerel, hardhead catfish, gafftopsail catfish, and blackfin tuna.

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**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.**

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**Can’t find your fish in the regulations?**

- 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.
Crustaceans and Mollusks

Shrimp

Closed Season:
- April & May closed to 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

Oysters

Minimum Size Limit:
- 3”

Closed Season:
- June, July, Aug. in Wakulla, Levy counties.
- July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
- 2 bags per harvester or vessel, whichever is less per day.
- 1 Bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell)

Remarks
- Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

Clams (Hard)

Minimum Size Limits:
- 1” thick across hinge

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
- One 5 gal.bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel, whichever is less per day (whole in shell)

Remarks
- Illegal to harvest from closed areas.
- Go to FloridaAquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise

Bay Scallops

Closed Season:
- Sept. 25-June 30

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.

Crab, Blue

Minimum Size Limits:
- 2 ¾” claw

Closed Season:
- May 16-Oct. 14

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
- 1 gal. Stone Crab claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less

Remarks
- 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

Crab, Stone

Minimum Size Limits:
- 1 ½” thick across hinge

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
- One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel, whichever is less per day (whole in shell)

Remarks
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise

Retainable Sharks (With a 54” Fork length minimum)

Bull

Common Thresher

Nurse

Spinner

Retainable Sharks (With no minimum size limit)

Atlantic Sharpnose

Blacknose

Blacktip

Bonnehead

Finetooth

Smooth Dogfish

PROHIBITED SPECIES

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


FWCC – Division of Marine Fisheries Management, 2590 Executive Center Circle East, Tallahassee, FL 32301 Phone: 850-487-0554

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

General Snappers 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.

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, Mutton ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits:
• Atlantic and Gulf - 16'
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Snapper, Black and Wenchman
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - No minimum size
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Snapper, Lane ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits:
• Atlantic and Gulf - 8'
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - 2 per harvester
Remarks
• Gulf - zero daily and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.

Remarks
• Vermilion snapper 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, Red ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic - 20" 
• Gulf - 16" 
Closed Season: 
• Atlantic: Open year-round 
• Gulf: Harvest season was not available at the time of publication. Please visit MyFWC.com for harvest season information.

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.

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.
• Zero bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels applies to all species of grouper.

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.

Snapper, Vermilion ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic - 12" 
• Gulf - 10"
Closed Season: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic - 5 per harvester 
• Gulf - 10 per harvester

Remarks
• Vermilion snapper not included within the snapper aggregate bag limit.

Atlantic - 4 per harvester
Closed Season: 
• Atlantic: Open year-round 
• Gulf: Closed Jan. 1 - April 30

Grouper, Black ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic - 24" 
• Gulf - 22"
Closed 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, Red ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic - 24" 
• Gulf - 22"
Closed Season: 
• Atlantic: Closed Jan. 1 - April 30 
• Gulf: Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic - 3 per harvester 
• Gulf - 4 per harvester

Grouper, Scamp ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic - 20" 
• Gulf - 16" 
Closed 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 Limits: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - No minimum 
Closed Season: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic - 1 per harvester 
• Gulf - 4 per harvester

Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - No minimum 
Closed Season: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic - 3 per harvester 
• Gulf - 4 per harvester

Snapper, Schoolmaster ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - 10"
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

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 & Yellowtail.

Grouper, Warsaw 
& Speckled Hind ▲ ●
Minimum Size Limits: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - No minimum 
Closed Season: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per vessel per day of each species

Other Grouper ▲ ●
Other Grouper includes: 
• Tiger, Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney and Graysby

Minimum Size Limit: 
• Atlantic and Gulf - No minimum 
Closed Season: 
• Atlantic - Closed Jan. 1 - April 30
• Gulf - Open year-round

Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 
• Atlantic - 3 per harvester 
• Gulf - 4 per harvester

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Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Other Reef Fish

**Amberjack, Greater**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic: 28" fork length
  - Gulf: 30" fork length
- Closed Season:
  - Atlantic: Open year-round
  - Gulf: Closed June 1–July 31
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - Atlantic: 1 per harvester
  - Gulf: 100 pounds per harvester

**Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rubberfish**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 14" to 22" slot size limit
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 5 aggregate of the two species

**Tilefish, Golden**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic: 1 per harvester
  - Gulf: 4 per harvester
- Remarks:
  - Golden tilefish included within Atlantic and Gulf grouper aggregate bag limits
  - Atlantic: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels

**Black Sea Bass**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic: 13"
  - Gulf: 10"
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - Atlantic: 5 per harvester
  - Gulf: 100 pounds per harvester

**Triggerfish (Gray)**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic: 12" fork length
  - Gulf: 16" fork length
- Closed Season:
  - Atlantic: Open year-round
  - Gulf: Closed June 1–July 31
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - Atlantic: 100 pounds
  - Gulf: 2 per harvester

**Rubberfish**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 5 aggregate of the two species
  - Gulf: 100 pounds per harvester
- Remarks:
  - Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters when federal waters are closed to all harvest.

**Red Porgy**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic: 14"
  - Gulf: No minimum size
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - Atlantic: 3 per harvester
  - Gulf: 100 pounds

**Tripletail**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic: 15"
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - 2 per harvester per day
- Remarks:
  - Hook & line gear only. No snatch hooks.

**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 60 per 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.

**Hogfish**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 12" fork length
- Closed Season:
  - Atlantic and Gulf: Unlimited
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - Atlantic and Gulf: Unlimited
- Remarks:
  - Divers are encouraged to safely remove lionfish whenever they are found.

**Dolphin**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic: 20" fork length
  - Gulf: No minimum size
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - 10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day
- Remarks:
  - Transfer of Spanish mackerel to other vessels at sea is prohibited.

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

**Pearl**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - No minimum
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - 2 per harvester per day

**Cobia (Ling)**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - 53" fork
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - 1 per harvester or 6 per vessel per day, whichever is less

**Billfish**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Sailfish 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. HMS permit required in federal waters. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels.

**Lionfish**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - Atlantic and Gulf: no minimum
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - Atlantic and Gulf: unlimited
- Remarks:
  - No license required to harvest by dip net, pole spear, Hawaiian sting.
  - Divers are encouraged to safely remove lionfish whenever they are found.

**Wahoo**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - No minimum
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - 2 per harvester per day

**Mackerel, King**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - 24" fork
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - 2 per harvester per day
- Remarks:
  - Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters when federal waters are closed to all harvest.

**Mackerel, Spanish**
- Minimum Size Limits:
  - 12" fork
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit:
  - 15 per harvester per day
- Remarks:
  - Transfer of Spanish mackerel to other vessels at sea is prohibited.