

Commercial Saltwater Regulations

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
July 2009

Emergency Rule Longline
Reef Fish Fishery **PAGE 5**

Six regional closed seasons for blue
crabs with traps **PAGE 5**

Atlantic
Snapper &
Gulf Grouper
Changes
PAGE 4



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com

Table of Contents

Commission Meetings..... 2

The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)..... 3

Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations 3

New Rules for Atlantic Snapper and Gulf Grouper..... 4

Marine Life Harvest 4

Longline Emergency Rule 5

Blue Crab Closed Seasons..... 5

Commercial Saltwater Fishing License Requirements..... 6

Commercial Saltwater Fishing Gear Limitations 7

“Reef Fish” Regulations..... 8

Mackerel Regulations..... 10

Mullet Regulations 11

Pompano regulations 11

Blue Crab Regulations..... 12

Stone Crab Regulations..... 13

Spiny Lobster (Crawfish) Regulations..... 13

Shellfish (Oysters, Clams & Mussels) Regulations 14

“Marine Life” Regulations (Tropical/Ornamentals)..... 15

Puffer Fish Ban 15

Basic Commercial Fishes Regulation Chart..... 16

Ballyhoo Regulations 22

Baitfish Regulations 23

“Marine Life” Regulations (Tropical/Ornamentals)..... 23

Commercially Prohibited Species 24

Industry Input is Key to Fishery Management 24

Planning a Move? 24

Photo credits: Aaron Podey and Cliff Leonard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Marine Fisheries Management.

Disclaimer: This unofficial summary has no legal effect and is provided for informational purposes only. For the official regulatory language, please refer to Chapter 379, Florida Statutes, and Chapters 68B and 68E, Florida Administrative Code. Fishery regulations are subject to change. This summary does not include regulatory changes that may have occurred after June 2009. Visit MyFWC.com to view official rule language.



Photo by Aaron Podey, Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Dear Friends,

Feedback offered by one fisherman or dealer can make a difference. Please keep the suggestions and photos coming, one of your photos could make the cover next year. If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fisheries newsletters, please contact: Dan Ellinor, Commercial Outreach Coordinator, Phone: 850-922-4340, Fax: 850-922-0463, e-mail: daniel.ellinor@MyFWC.com. As always, do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions about commercial fisheries issues.

Sincerely,

Dan Ellinor
 Commercial Outreach Coordinator
 FWC Division of Marine Fisheries
 2590 Executive Center Circle, East, Suite 203
 Tallahassee, Florida 32301
 Telephone 850-922-4340, Extension 204

2009 Commission Meetings

- June 17-18 Plantation Inn
9301 West Fort Island Trail
Crystal River, FL 34429
- June 19 (Marine Fisheries State - Federal Coordination)
Plantation Inn
9301 West Fort Island Trail
Crystal River, FL 34429
- Sept. 9-11 Mission Inn Resort & Club
10400 County Road 48
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737
- Dec. 9-10 John Boy Auditorium
1200 South W.C. Owen Ave
Clewiston, FL 33440

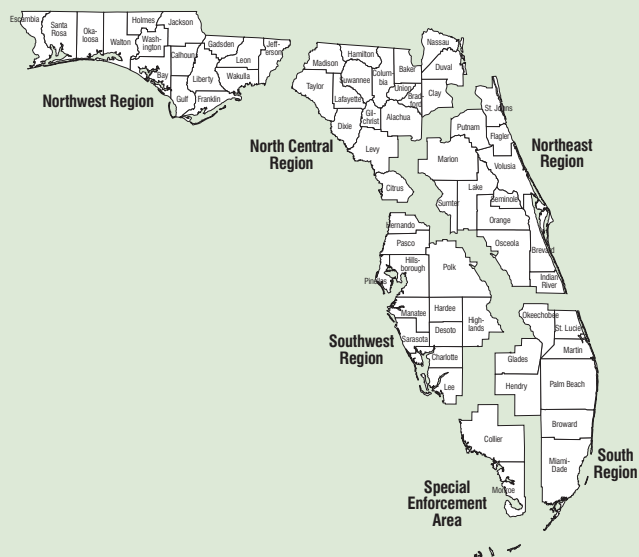
For more information about workgroup and advisory board meeting dates, times and locations, and agendas visit our website at MyFWC.com.

The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)

The Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and fishermen 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 violation of state fisheries, wildlife, or boating laws, call the Wildlife Alert Reward Program at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cellular phone users throughout the state, dial #FWC or *FWC depending on your location, or hail on VHF Channel 16.

Division of Law Enforcement Regions



For Saltwater Fishing and Boating Questions, Contact the Nearest Regional Field Office

Northeast Region	352-732-1225
South Region	561-625-5122
Special Enforcement Area	561-625-5122
Southwest Region	863-648-3200
North Central Region	386-758-0525
Northwest Region	850-265-3676

Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations

These rules apply in state waters extending nine nautical miles off the Gulf coast and three nautical miles off the Atlantic coast. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rules may also include federal waters. The FWC is charged with establishing marine fisheries rules in Chapters 68B and 68E, Florida Administrative Code. License fees and penalties for fisheries violations rules and regulations in Chapter 379, Florida Statutes, are enacted by the Legislature. The official FWC marine fisheries regulations can be found at: myfwc.com. The FWC Division of Law Enforcement enforces fisheries laws in both state and federal waters.

Additional Regulations

Other federal and state regulations and permit requirements, local laws, and gear restrictions may apply when harvesting in state waters of Florida and the adjacent federal waters. Please contact the regional FWC Law Enforcement office before fishing. State and federal park regulations and permit requirements apply within park boundaries. Contact park personnel before harvesting in waters of a park or state recreation area.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
 Tampa, FL 33607
 (Toll Free) 888-833-1844
 813-348-1711
www.gulfcouncil.org
 Email: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

4055 Faber Place Drive Suite 201
 North Charleston, SC 29405
 843-571-4366 or Toll Free 866/SAFMC-10
www.safmc.net

RESOURCE HOTLINES

To Report Fish Kills: 800-636-0511
 To Report Fish Tags: 800-367-4461

For federal contact information:

NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Ave South
 St. Petersburg, Fl. 33702
 Toll free information: 866-570-5301
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Highly Migratory Species Management Division

727-824-5399
 HMS Automated toll free: 800-894-5528
<http://nmfs.noaa.gov/sta/hms>

NMFS-Permit Department

728-824-5326
 Toll Free: 888-872-TUNA (8862)
<http://nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/permits.htm>

Sustainable Fisheries

727-824-5305
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/sustainablef.htm>

On the Hook....

Closure intended to help meet requirements to end overfishing

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted to request an interim rule for red snapper that would close the fishery in federal waters for both commercial and recreational fishermen for 180 days with a possible extension of 186 days. The request for the closure, directed to NOAA Fisheries Service, is designed to help address overfishing for red snapper until more long-term management measures are implemented. A 2008 stock assessment for red snapper in the South

Atlantic region shows the stock continues to be overfished and is undergoing overfishing at nine times the sustainable level. If approved, it is anticipated the closure would be implemented in late June or early July, 2009. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for June 8-12, 2009 in Stuart, Fl. For more information please go to: <http://www.safmc.net/>

Grouper.....

New rules are proposed for the commercial harvest of grouper in Gulf of Mexico state waters. The proposed rules follow interim measures taken earlier this year and will match state grouper rules with pending federal regulations. The goal of the new rules will be to improve populations of gag grouper so that quality fishing for this important species can continue into the future.

A recent series of federal and state actions address overfishing of gag grouper in the Gulf by reducing fishing pressure. These actions are designed to achieve gag grouper harvest reductions of 41-42 percent for the commercial fishery and 26 percent for the recreational fishery through a combination of fishing season and area closures, an annual harvest quota, bag limit adjustments and other measures.

The new rules would establish a Feb. 1 through March 31 closed season for all recreational and commercial harvest of shallow-water groupers (gag, black, red, yellowfin, scamp, yellowmouth, rock hind and red hind) in all Gulf state waters. This proposed two-month closure in Gulf state waters would extend the current one-month commercial closed season for gag, red and black grouper.

The intent of this closure to all harvest of shallow-water grouper species in Gulf state waters is to limit the unintended catch (and possible mortality) of gag grouper by prohibiting harvest of all similar shallow-water grouper species during the spawning season.

In addition, the proposed rules would reduce the commercial minimum size limit for Gulf red grouper, and for all importation and sale of red grouper, from 20 inches to 18 inches total length. This will significantly reduce the number of 18- to 20-inch fish that do not survive upon release. These proposed rules will go to final public hearing at the June Commission meeting.

Marine Life Regulations Have Changed

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently approved a series of rule amendments for the marine life (aquarium species) fishery that take effect July 1, 2009. As part of a comprehensive review of the organisms in the fishery, the FWC has modified both commercial and recreational regulations for marine life. These rule amendments are intended to enhance the FWC's existing marine life regulations and help maintain the health of Florida's important coral reef ecosystem. The amendments include the addition of new fish and invertebrate species, modifications or establishment of new bag and size limits, gear specifications, and other technical changes.

These changes are the result of a three year process that reviewed the species listed in the rule. This process involved a stakeholder Workgroup comprised of 13 members that represented the diversity of the marine life fishery, including 10 members of the industry, 1 person representing the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, 1 member of the Aquaculture Review Council, and 1 non-governmental representative from R.E.E.F. In addition to the Workgroup process, FWC staff also held public workshops and presented information that was suggested for rulemaking at multiple Commission meetings.

The species that were recently added to the rule that will now require a marine life endorsement for commercial harvest include: porcupinefish, spotted burrfish, black brotula, key brotula, yellow stingray, blackbar soldierfish, red mithrax crab, emerald crab, red ridged clinging crab, the star snail *Lithopoma tectum*, all hermit crabs (except land hermits), and Nassarius snails.

The recent rule changes also established a maximum size for tangs of nine inches fork length and a maximum size of 12 inches for parrotfish. The changes also modified the butterflyfish bag limit to 50 per person and 100 per vessel. The bag limit for *Condylactis* anemones was also reduced to 200 per day or 400 per vessel with two unique marine life endorsements aboard. Vessel maximums of 400 were established for both emerald crabs and dwarf seahorses. Personal possession limits and vessel maximums for starsnails were modified to include *Lithopoma tectum* (1 gal/2 gal). Personal possession limits and vessel maximums were established for scarlet reef hermits (1 qt/2 qt), zoanthids (1 gal/2 gal), and corallimorphs (100 individuals/ 200 individuals). The wording of some of the existing bag limits was also modified to try and minimize confusion since the establishment of the new endorsement system in 2005 (see chart for clarification).

There are new gear restrictions for collecting both zoanthids and corallimorphs. Both must be collected as single polyps using a flexible blade no wider than 2 inches, such as a putty knife, a razor blade, or a paint scraper. In addition, the rules specify that ornamental sponges taken north of Egmont Key in the Gulf of Mexico can be harvested with a piece of substrate that is 1-inch beyond the perimeter of the holdfast and extends no more than 1 inch below the holdfast. South of Egmont Key, no substrate is allowed.

Other rules adopted by the FWC include allowing live rock harvest from an aquacultured lease site to count towards the requalification of the marine life transferable dive endorsement and restricting the use of quinaldine to dive endorsements only.

Reminder: Requalification for the Marine Life Transferable Dive Endorsement (MLD) begins next year. MLD holders must have \$5000 worth of marine life landings (as defined in 68B-42.001, F.A.C.) in one of the previous three license years. The endorsement will be valid from the date of documentation used to qualify, but must be renewed annually.

Emergency Rule Longline Reef Fish Fishery

NOAA Fisheries Service implemented an emergency rule, effective May 18, 2009, through October 28, 2009, to reduce sea turtle bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico bottom longline reef fish fishery. The emergency rule prohibits bottom longlining for Gulf reef fish east of 85°30'W longitude (near Cape San Blas, Florida) in the portion of the Exclusive Economic Zone. The boundary generally follows the 50-fathom depth contour. Once the deepwater grouper and tilefish quotas have been filled, the use of bottom longline gear to harvest reef fish in water of all depths east of 85°30'W longitude will be prohibited. During transit no reef fish may be possessed unless bottom longline gear is appropriately stowed meaning that a longline may be left on the drum if all gangions and hooks are disconnected and stowed below deck; hooks cannot be baited, and all buoys must be disconnected from the gear, but may remain on deck. As a reminder, in the case of the 50-fathom regulation line intersecting a marine reserve, fisherman must also adhere to the regulations for the reserve. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) requested this action at the January 2009 meeting. The emergency rule is intended to reduce sea turtle takes in the short-term while the Council develops long-term protective measures through Amendment 31 to the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

Need more information on these topics? Southeast Regional Office's Web page: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>



Six regional closed seasons to the harvest of blue crabs with traps



Six regional closed seasons to the harvest of blue crabs with traps. These are new closures that would last for a period of up to 10 days each to help facilitate efforts to identify and retrieve lost and abandoned blue crab traps from Florida waters.

Lost and abandoned blue crab traps have been cited as a problem in the blue crab fishery because they sometimes interfere with other fishing activities and can continue to trap crabs and fish when they are not maintained. They are also unsightly in the marine environment, can damage sensitive habitats and pose navigational hazards to boaters.

It is illegal to tamper with properly licensed and maintained blue crab traps, and lost and abandoned traps cannot easily be distinguished from legal traps, so they often remain in the water indefinitely. Regional closures of up to 10 days would allow FWC staff and authorized groups to collect lost and abandoned blue crab traps that remain in the water after fishermen remove their working traps during the closed periods.

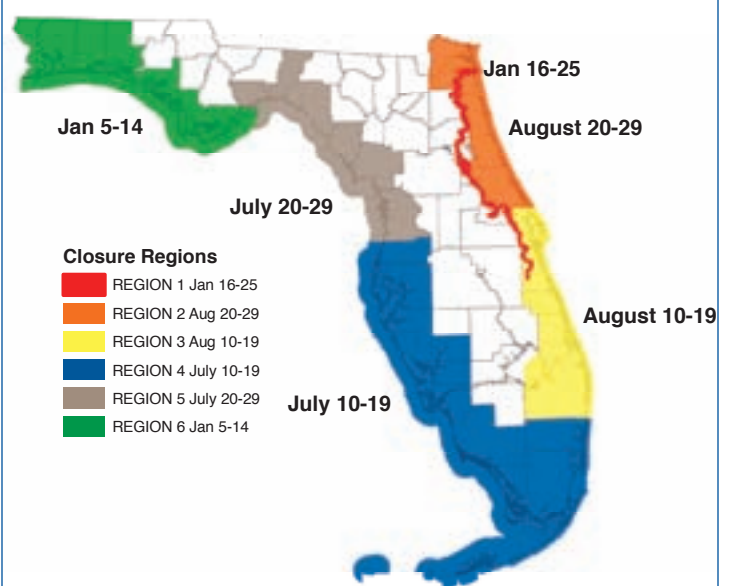
After consulting with the Blue Crab Advisory Board and receiving input from the public, the FWC established **annual blue crab harvest closures in all waters of the St. Johns River system from Jan. 16-25, all other coastal waters from the Georgia/Florida state line south through Volusia County from Aug. 20-29, all waters of Brevard County through Palm Beach County from Aug. 10-19, all waters of Broward County through Pasco County from July 10-19, all waters of Hernando County through Wakulla County from July 20-29, and all waters of Franklin County to the Florida/Alabama state line from Jan. 5-14.**

Except for the St. Johns River system closure, all of the blue crab trap harvest closures extend from the shoreline out to three nautical miles and include all inland waters in the regions. An existing Sept. 20 - Oct. 4 closed season in the Gulf

of Mexico from three to nine miles offshore has been retained.

These closures apply only to standard blue crab traps. The harvest of blue crabs by other gear, such as dip nets and fold-up traps, are still be permitted during the closures. The closures also apply to recreational harvesters who use standard blue crab traps unless the traps are attached to private property.

Blue Crab Trap Closure Regions



- All closures except Region 1 (St. John's River system) extend to three miles offshore.
- Blue crab traps attached to private property (e.g. docks) are excluded from closures

Commercial Saltwater Fishing License Requirements

A Saltwater Products License (SPL) is required to commercially harvest or sell all saltwater products. An SPL may be issued in the name of an individual or a valid boat registration number issued in the name of the license applicant. Any vessel used to harvest commercial quantities of saltwater products must have a commercial vessel registration. Such license is not transferable if the vessel is sold.

A saltwater product is any marine fish, marine invertebrate or marine plant, except non-living shells and salted, cured, canned, or smoked seafood. Harvest over the recreational bag limit, use of certain gear as required by law, or possession of more than 100 lbs. per person per day of species with no established bag limit is considered commercial harvest. Possession of two or fewer fish with no established bag limit is not considered commercial harvest.

A Restricted Species Endorsement (RS) is required to commercially harvest and sell the following species: Spanish Mackerel, King Mackerel, Black Drum, Spotted Sea Trout, Grouper, Snapper, Red Porgy, Gray Triggerfish, Amberjack, Sea Bass, Tropical/Ornamental "Marine Life", Black Mullet, Silver Mullet, Bluefish, Hogfish, Blue Crab, Stone Crab, Crawfish/Spiny Lobster, African Pompano, Florida Pompano, Permit, Sheepshead, Tripletail, Clams (Brevard County only), Shrimp, Flounder, Cobia, Wahoo and Dolphin. Additional species may be designated as restricted by the Commission at any time. Licensed commercial fishermen must show proof of income in the form of trip tickets or out-of-state landings reported under their license (along with a copy of the out of state license) to qualify for the RS. Sales reported under a retail dealer's license cannot be used to qualify for the RS. Additional qualification criteria or exemptions to the income requirements may apply for first-time applicants.

Additional licenses, endorsements, permits or certificates are required to commercially harvest and/or sell: blue crab (VH#, VS#, VN#, VI#), marine life (MLD#, MLN#,MLB#), crawfish/spiny lobster (C# or CD#), stone crab (X# or I#), sponges (Q#); to harvest shrimp (LS#,DS# and TB#) and clams (KL#) in designated areas; to use a purse seine (PS#); to use a lampara net for the directed harvest of ballyhoo (L#); and to simultaneously possess a gillnet and pompano harvested from federal waters in the Cape Sable/Hurricane Pass area (P#). Federal permits may also be required. Please contact the Federal Permitting office at 727-824-5326 prior to obtaining an SPL in order to determine if required Federal Permits are available for purchase. The "Basic Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations" chart on pages 16-22 lists additional requirements for

regulated species. These requirements apply even if a species is harvested as allowable incidental bycatch.

A wholesale dealer's license is required to purchase saltwater products from a producer and sell products to retail dealers or other wholesale dealers. A retail dealer's license is required to purchase saltwater products from a wholesale dealer and sell to the consumer unless licensed by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants. A wholesale dealer's license is not required for products entering the state through interstate or international commerce as long as the products are continuously bonded during transit through the state. Wholesale dealers are responsible for reporting all purchases from a producer to the commission.

Some licenses, endorsements or permits may not be available at this time. Contact the licensing office to determine license requirements for new applicants. Additional information and applications are available on-line at myfwc.com or by contacting the Commercial Saltwater Licensing program at (850) 487-3122 or SPLMAIL@myfwc.com.



Sale and Reporting Requirements for Saltwater Products

It is unlawful for any unlicensed person to purchase or sell saltwater products. Penalties for unlicensed sale include criminal and civil fines of up to \$5,000, permanent revocation of license privileges, and imprisonment in addition to penalties levied by the court. Additional penalties for unlicensed sale by

a person whose fishing privileges have been revoked or suspended include forfeiture of property involved in the offense.

Dealers are required to confirm that potential sellers hold all of the required licenses prior to purchasing any saltwater product. All dealers must report products when landed for the first time to the FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) Trip Ticket Reporting Office. Wholesale and retail dealers who harvest their own products under an SPL must also submit trip tickets.

Commercial fishermen can only sell their catch to a licensed wholesale dealer. Fishermen are strongly advised to always obtain and retain copies of their trip tickets and to compare them with their landings summaries produced by the FWRI on an annual basis. For reporting or landings information contact the FWC FWRI Trip Ticket Office at (727) 896-8626.

DID YOU KNOW...

- Food fish may not be taken for the purpose of making oil, fertilizer or compost.
- Hook and line gear must be tended at all times. Possession of longline gear (a line or a series of connected lines with more than 10 hooks) is prohibited in state waters except for persons in continuous transit across state waters to or from federal waters.
- Spearfishing is prohibited within 100 yards of public bathing beaches, commercial or public fishing piers, and bridges where public fishing is permitted, or within 100 feet of a jetty, except for the last 500 feet of a jetty that extends beyond 1,500 yards of the shoreline. The use and possession of spear guns (other than spear guns that are unloaded, properly stored, and in continuous transit across such waters) is prohibited in State parks or recreation areas. Spearfishing is prohibited from Long Key to the Dade/Monroe County line. Check with the nearest FWC Law Enforcement office to find out if other local spearfishing restrictions apply.
- Use of firearms or explosives for harvest is prohibited. Harvest with or possession of fish harvested with a powerhead or bangstick is prohibited in state waters. Powerheads may be used for personal protection only. Use of a rebreather to harvest any marine species is prohibited. Use of a rebreather is allowed for nonconsumptive purposes only. Simultaneous possession of a rebreather and fish is prohibited, except for persons in continuous transit from federal waters.

Commercial Saltwater Fishing Gear Limitations

The chart on pages 16-22 lists the allowable gear for each regulated species. Statewide and regional limitations also apply to possession and use of nets, trawls, and traps and may not be included in the chart. A summary of basic gear limitations for the use of nets, trawls, and traps is provided below. Contact your regional Law Enforcement Office for local regulations (see page 3).

Net Limitations

Food fish caught in any net and not kept due to bag, size, or other reason must be immediately returned to the water alive.

The use of gill and entangling nets is prohibited in all state waters (nine nautical miles from the Gulf coast and three nautical miles from the Atlantic coast). Any net (other than a hand thrown cast net) with a stretched mesh size larger than two inches is considered an entangling net. Any net (other than a hand thrown cast net or handheld landing or dip net) constructed wholly or partially of monofilament or multistrand monofilament material is also considered an entangling net.

The use of a cast net with a stretched length (the distance from the horn to the lead line with the net pulled tight) of more than 14 feet and fishing with more than two cast nets per vessel are also prohibited in state waters.

Use of more than four seines is prohibited in state waters. This limitation applies to primary vessels and secondary vessels aboard or connected to the primary vessel. No more than two lawful nets may be fished per vessel in nearshore and inshore waters (all waters landward of a line three nautical miles from the Gulf coast and one nautical mile from the Atlantic coast). A person not on a vessel may fish no more than one such net.

The use of any net with a mesh area exceeding 500 square feet is prohibited in nearshore and inshore waters. Check new rule number 68B-4.0081(3)(e) for how to measure a net. Tying, connecting, or fastening two or more nets together in any way so as to exceed 500 square feet of mesh area is prohibited.

No net may have more meshes attached per foot of corkline or leadline than 14 divided by the bar measurement of the mesh in the net. The use of trawls with a net or bag containing more than 500 square feet of mesh area is prohibited in nearshore and inshore waters.

Any vessel in state waters with gill or entangling nets aboard or more than four seines aboard and vessels in nearshore or inshore waters with any net with a mesh area larger than 500 square feet aboard (the trawl door or frame may not be deployed) must proceed as directly, continuously and expeditiously as possible from the place where the vessel is regularly moored to waters where use of such nets is lawful and back to the

licensed wholesale dealer where the catch is to be sold. This requirement does not apply to vessels containing or otherwise transporting dry nets that are rolled, folded, or otherwise properly stowed in "lock boxes" so as to make their immediate use impracticable.

In all waters of the state, the possession of gill or entangling nets or seines with a mesh area larger than 500 square feet is prohibited on any airboat, on any vessel with a forward-mounted primary power source that is less than 25 feet in length, and on any vessel less than 22 feet in length.

Violations of these net gear regulations are considered major violations. Civil penalties and license suspensions may be assessed in addition to court assessed criminal penalties

Gill nets used in the federal gill net fishery must be marked at each end with the SPL number of the vessel operator or vessel from which it is deployed. Seines must be tended and marked with the SPL number at each end.

Beach or haul seines, with the exception of nets used in the specified area of the the Southwest region, may not be soaked for more than one hour from the time the mesh first enters the water until the mesh is first retrieved. In the Southwest region (Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties, except inside waters) nets may be fished from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. Such nets may not be soaked for more than 12 hours from the time the first mesh is set until the first mesh is retrieved. In this area a seine net with one unattached wing is allowed; however, one end of the main net must be anchored on the shore, and a vessel with a white light visible from 360° and at least one mile must be anchored at the seaward end of the nets.

Purse seines or similar devices may not be used to take food fish other than tuna and menhaden. Lawfully used seines may have a pocket bunt on the middle of the seine with a mesh size less than two inches.

Use of trawls for the directed harvest of species other than shrimp and calico scallops is prohibited. When allowed by rule, other species harvested as bycatch may be retained. Refer to the official gear, shrimp and calico scallop regulations for specific trawling limitations and gear specifications.

Trap Limitations

Unless otherwise prohibited, finfish may be harvested in a lawful black sea bass or pinfish trap, or as bycatch in a lawful crab or crawfish trap (licensing requirements apply to bycatch). A lawful black sea bass trap may not exceed two feet in any dimension and must have a biodegradable panel and a throat not more than five inches high by two inches wide. Black sea bass traps are prohibited south of Latitude 27 °

N (a line extending east and west through the Sarasota area on the west coast and Martin County on the east coast). A lawful pinfish trap may not exceed two feet in any dimension and must have a throat or entrance not more than 3 inches high and ¾ inches wide. Possession of fish traps not otherwise allowed by rule is prohibited in state waters except for persons in continuous transit across state waters to or from federal waters.

Each black sea bass trap must have the trap owner's saltwater products license number permanently attached to the trap. Each buoy attached to such trap shall have the letter "B" and the owner's saltwater products license number affixed to it in legible figures at least 1.5 inches high.

Trap tagging requirements apply to stone crab, spiny lobster and blue crab. Stone crab, blue crab, and spiny lobster trap construction and trap/buoy/vessel marking specifications are summarized on pages 12-13. Refer to the official rules before building or buying traps.

The use of any trap is prohibited in designated areas off of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties during the following closed seasons.



Zone II - closed season Oct. 5 - May 20

Zone IV - closed season Oct. 5 - Dec. 1 & April 2 - May 20

Zone V - closed season Oct. 5 - Nov. 30 & Mar. 16 - May 20

The boundaries for these zones are defined by longitude and latitude in rule 68B-38(2), F.A.C.

Trap theft or molestation is a felony crime; penalties include permanent loss of license and trap certificates in addition to court assessed penalties.

A trap puller is prohibited on vessels other than a commercial vessel operated pursuant to a saltwater products license with a crawfish, stone crab or blue crab endorsement or other FWC authorization or a federal fish trap endorsement.

In the Gulf Seasonal Closure Region, no blue crab trap, including a trap used to harvest peeler crabs, may be placed in the water, fished, or soaked during the period beginning September 20 and continuing through October 4 each year.

“Reef Fish” Regulations

Species designated as “Reef Fish” are also designated as Restricted Species. An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) endorsement is required to sell any species designated as “Reef Fish”. A Federal Permit is also required to harvest in commercial quantities and sell “Reef Fish” species other than bank, black, or rock sea bass and red porgy harvested in the Gulf. No “Reef Fish” may be sold by or purchased from persons who do not hold the required state and federal permits.

Size and bag limits and closed seasons are listed in the chart on pages 8 & 9. Allowable gear for the harvest of “Reef Fish” is limited to hook and line gear, black sea bass traps, and spearing. Possession of “Reef Fish” harvested as incidental bycatch while targeting other species or with gear not allowed for the harvest of “Reef Fish” is limited to the recreational bag limit. Incidental bycatch of red porgy harvested in the Atlantic during the closed season is limited to one fish and may not be sold. Possession of a recreational and a commercial bag limit of all reef fish species on the same trip is prohibited.

If at any time adjacent federal waters are closed to commercial harvest of a “Reef Fish” species, corresponding state waters are also closed to the harvest of that species. During any such closure, the purchase and sale of that species harvested from the closed area is prohibited.

Species designated as “Reef Fish”:

Groupers		Jacks	Snappers		Other
Black Grouper	Snowy Grouper	Greater Amberjack	Black Snapper	Queen Snapper	Hogfish
Coney Grouper	Tiger Grouper	Banded Rudderfish	Blackfin Snapper	Red Snapper	Red Porgy
Gag	Yellowedge Grouper	Lesser Amberjack	Cubera Snapper	Schoolmaster	Gray Triggerfish
Graysby	Yellowfin Grouper	Almaco Jack	Dog Snapper	Silk Snapper	
Misty Grouper	Yellowmouth Grouper		Gray (Mangrove) Snapper	Vermilion Snapper	
Red Grouper	Bank Sea Bass *		Lane Snapper	Wenchman Snapper	
Red Hind	Black Sea Bass*		Mahogany Snapper	Yellowtail Snapper	
Rock Hind	Rock Sea Bass*		Mutton Snapper		
Scamp					

*Harvest of bank, black, and rock sea bass is prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Commercial Regulations

SNAPPERS	State Waters Florida	Federal Waters South Atlantic	Federal Waters Gulf of Mexico
Red	Atlantic: 20" TL; 2 per person per day Gulf: 13" TL; 4/person; Federal closure applies	20" TL Trip Limit: None	13" TL The Commercial red snapper fishery is now managed under an Individual fishing quota (IFQ) system, anyone commercial fishing for red snapper must possess IFQ allocation and follow the established reporting protocol. Quota set at 2.55 mp.
Vermilion*	Gulf: 10" TL Atlantic: 12" TL statewide: None	12" TL None: Annual quota = 1.1 million lbs	10" TL Trip Limit: None
Lane	8" TL Trip Limit: None	8" TL Trip Limit: None	8" TL Trip Limit: None
Gray	12" TL Trip Limit: None	12" TL Trip Limit: None	12" TL Trip Limit: None
Mutton	16" TL May and June 10 per person per day or 10 per trip whichever is more restrictive.	16" TL May and June possession limited to 10 per person per day or per trip, whichever is more restricted.	16" TL Trip Limit: None
Yellowtail/ Dog/ Mahogany	12" TL Trip Limit: None	12" TL Trip Limit: None	12" TL Trip Limit: None
Schoolmaster	10" TL Trip Limit: None	12" TL Trip Limit: None	12" TL Trip Limit: None
Blackfin/ Silk / Queen	12" TL Trip Limit: None	12" TL Trip Limit: None	None Trip Limit: None
Black	N/A	NA	NA
Wenchman	N/A	NA	N/A
Cubera^	12" TL 2 per person(not to exceed 2 per boat) for fish 30" TL or larger off Florida.	12" TL 2 per person(not to exceed 2 per boat) for fish 30" TL or larger off Florida.	12" TL Trip Limit: None
Reef fish as Bait	all fish must be landed in whole condition; legal-sized whole fish may be used as bait but counted against bag limit		only sand perch & dwarf sand perch may be used for bait
SYMBOLS	* Vermilion snapper not included in 10 snapper or 20 reef fish per person daily limit (except Gulf) ^ Cubera snapper less than 30" TL included in 10 snapper per person daily limit (except Gulf)		

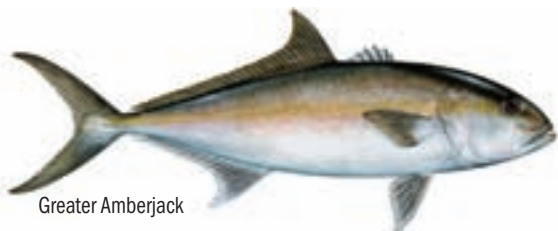
Commercial Regulations

GROUPERS	State Waters - Florida	Federal Waters - Gulf of Mexico	Federal Waters - South Atlantic
Goliath / Nassau	Harvest prohibited	Harvest prohibited	Harvest prohibited
Gag / Black	Gulf: 24" TL Atlantic & Monroe Co closed: Mar 1 - Apr 30 Gulf closed: Feb 15 - March 15 (See page 4*)	24" TL Quota: 8.8 MP gutted weight for all shallow-water groupers in aggregate.	24" TL Seasonal closure to commercial harvest and prohibition on sale of Gag, Black and Red Grouper during March and April
Red	20" TL Gulf closed: Feb 15 - March 15 (See page 4*)	18" TL Quota: 5.31 MP gutted weight for all shallow-water groupers in aggregate.	20" TL
Scamp	Gulf: 16" TL Atlantic & Monroe Co: 20" TL (See page 4*)	16" TL Quota: 8.8 MP gutted weight for all shallow-water groupers in aggregate	20" TL
Yellowfin	20" TL (See page 4*)	20" TL Quota: 8.8 MP gutted weight for all shallow-water groupers in aggregate	20" TL
Yellowmouth	20" TL (See page 4*)	No size limit	20" TL
Rock Hind/ Red Hind	N/A (See page 4*)	N/A	NA
Yellowedge / Misty	N/A	No size limit - 6,000 lbs gutted weight trip limit (all groupers-deepwater and shallow water combined). Quota: 1.02 MP gutted weight (includes scamp). Closed after shallow-water grouper quota is filled.	N/A
Warsaw/ Speckled Hind	Harvest prohibited	No size limit - 6,000 lbs gutted weight trip limit (all groupers-deepwater and shallow water combined). Quota: 1.02 MP gutted weight (includes scamp). Closed after shallow-water grouper quota is filled.	1 per vessel trip May not be sold or traded: no transfer at sea
Snowy	N/A	No size limit - 6,000 lbs gutted weight trip limit (all groupers-deepwater and shallow water combined). Quota: 1.02 MP gutted weight (includes scamp). Closed after shallow-water grouper quota is filled.	No size limit. Annual quota = 84,000 lbs with 100 lb trip limit
Coney/ Graysby / Tiger	N/A	NA	N/A
Golden Tilefish	N/A	N/A	No size limit - Annual quota = 295,000 lbs. with 4,000 lb. trip limit until 75% of quota is taken, then trip limit reduces to 300 lbs. (if 75% of quota has not been taken on or before Sept 1, the trip limit will not be reduced).
Tilefish (All: Golden, Goldface, Blueline, Sand, Blackline, Anchor)	N/A	Quota: 440,000 lbs gutted weight	5,000 lbs. when season open; 300 when season closed. Quota = 1,001,663
Black Sea Bass	10" TL	10" TL (state rules apply)	10" TL Annual quota = 423,000 lbs until 5/31/08, then 309,800 lbs

*Changes pending June commission meeting

JACKS

Almaco jack	None	None	March, April, and May	
Banded rudderfish	14" - 22" FL	None	March, April, and May	
Greater amberjack	36" FL	Atlantic - 1,000 lbs. per vessel per day.	March, April, and May	Size limit applies to imported fish.
Lesser amberjack	14" - 22" FL	None	March, April, and May	



Greater Amberjack



Yellowfin Grouper

Mackerel Regulations

The basic size limits and license requirements for kingfish and Spanish mackerel are listed in the chart on pages 16-22.

King Mackerel (Kingfish)

King mackerel are divided into two separate fisheries: the Atlantic fishery and the Gulf-Atlantic fishery. Bag limits vary by fishery, region, and season.

The boundaries between the Atlantic and Gulf-Atlantic fisheries shift between the summer and winter seasons. During the summer season (April 1 - Oct. 31), the Atlantic Fishery includes all Atlantic and Monroe County waters and the Gulf-Atlantic fishery includes all Gulf waters north of the Collier/Monroe County line.

During the winter season (Nov. 1 - March 31), the Atlantic fishery includes only Atlantic waters north of the Volusia/Flagler County line and the Gulf-Atlantic Fishery includes all Atlantic waters south of the Volusia/Flagler County line and all Gulf waters east of the Alabama/Florida border.

In both the Atlantic and Gulf-Atlantic fisheries, the trip limit for the commercial harvest of king mackerel in state waters is reduced or closed in response to federal trip limit reductions and closures.

Spanish Mackerel

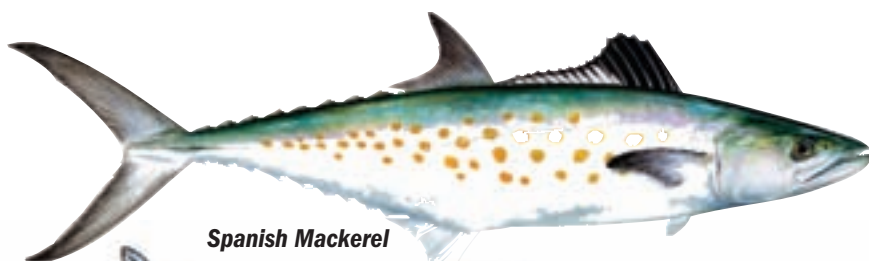
The commercial Spanish mackerel fishery is divided into Eastern and Western regions. The boundary separating the regions is 25°20.4' N. Latitude, (a line directly east from the Dade/Monroe County border to the edge of the EEZ). All Atlantic waters north of the boundary line comprise the Eastern Region. All Atlantic waters south of the boundary line and all state waters and adjacent federal waters in the Gulf comprise the Western Region. Although the trip limit for the commercial harvest of Spanish mackerel is reduced in response to federal trip limit reductions and closures, there is no closed season for the commercial harvest of Spanish mackerel in state waters. Transfer of fish between vessels is prohibited in the Eastern Region.

King Mackerel Vessel/Trip Limits:

Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, and Flagler counties	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	3,500 lbs. daily vessel limit applies
From the date of the EEZ closure thru March 31:	Recreational limit
Volusia County	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	3,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru Oct. 31:	Recreational limit
From Nov. 1 until the EEZ closes:	50 fish daily vessel limit
From date of the EEZ closure thru March 31:	Commercial harvest prohibited
Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade counties	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	75 fish daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru Oct. 31:	Recreational limit
From Nov. 1, until the EEZ closes:	50 fish daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru March 31:	Commercial harvest prohibited
Monroe County	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	1,250 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru Oct. 31:	Recreational limit
From Nov. 1 until the EEZ bag limit is reduced:	1,250 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of the bag limit reduction until EEZ closes:	500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From EEZ closure thru March 31:	Commercial harvest prohibited
All Gulf coast counties except Monroe County	
From July 1 until the vessel limit is reduced to 500 lbs.:	1,250 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of the vessel limit reduction until the EEZ closes:	500 lb. daily vessel limit
From the date of the EEZ closure thru June 30:	Commercial harvest prohibited

Spanish Mackerel Vessel/Trip Limits:

Eastern	
From April 1 to Nov. 30:	3,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From Dec. 1 until the EEZ closes to unlimited harvest - Mon. - Fri.:	3,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
Sat. and Sun.:	1,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From date closure to unlimited harvest until EEZ closes:	1,500 lbs. daily vessel limit
From the date of closure until March 31:	500 lbs.
Western	
From April 1 until the EEZ closes:	Unlimited harvest
From the date the EEZ closes until Mar. 31	500 lbs. daily vessel limit



Mullet Regulations

Striped (black) and silver (white, fantail, or redeye) mullet are designated as “Restricted Species”.

The minimum size limit for striped mullet is 11 inches (fork length), with an allowance for a quantity of undersized mullet not to exceed 10



percent of the total weight of all striped mullet possessed. Fork length is measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

The use of any gear other than cast nets (no more than 14 feet long, and no more than two per vessel), beach or haul seines (no larger than 500 square feet, and no more than two may be fished per vessel), hook and line gear; and by spearing is prohibited. Spearfishing is prohibited in fresh water. Simultaneous possession of any mullet species in excess of the recreational bag limit and any gill or entangling net is prohibited. This prohibition applies to mullet and gill nets in separate vessels or vehicles that are operated in coordination with one another, including towed vessels. Sale of mullet harvested with illegal gear is prohibited.

Mullet Bag Limits & Closures

Striped

Area Regional Bag Limits and Closures

Statewide Harvest is prohibited seaward of the 3-mile line (Gulf and Atlantic) and seaward of the Everglades National Park line in Florida Bay.

Striped Mullet Only

Area*	Regional Bag Limits and Closures
Pinellas County (Tampa Bay) - Riveria Bay and Bayou Grande (Papy's Bayou), Placido Bayou (Smack's Bayou), Snell Isle Harbour, and Coffee Pot Bayou, and certain connecting areas of Tampa Bay, and areas of Tampa Bay between the municipal pier head to just north of the southern tip of Weedon Island.	Oct 1 - Jan. 31 - 5 mullet per person or per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive.
Manatee County - Manatee River upstream of a line from the eastern side of the mouth of Warner's Bayou northeasterly to the eastern side of the mouth of Tierra Ciega Cutoff.	Nov. 1 - Jan. 31 - 50 mullet per person per day or per vessel, whichever is more restrictive.
Charlotte County - Peace River upstream of a line from Mangrove Point running northwesterly through the northeastern most point of Locust Point to the shoreline in the body of water known as Myakka Cutoff. Coral Creek upstream of its mouth on Gasparilla Sound.	Nov. 1 - Jan. 31 - 50 mullet per person or per vessel per day, whichever is more restrictive.
Charlotte County - Punta Gorda area.	Nov. 1 thru the end of February, closed nightly 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Possession is prohibited during the nightly closure.

* Refer to official area descriptions in the Mullet Rule.

Silver Mullet Only

Area*	Regional Bag Limits and Closures
All Atlantic waters north of the Dade/Monroe County line.	During February, commercial harvest prohibited.
Statewide	Weekend Closure - July 1 - Jan. 31 commercial harvest prohibited 12:01 a.m. Sat. morning to 12:01 a.m. Mon. morning. Mullet harvested under the recreational bag limit during the weekend closure may not be sold or purchased.

* Refer to official area descriptions in the Mullet Rule.

Pompano regulations

The basic size and bag limits and license requirements for the harvest of pompano are listed in the chart on pages 16-22. The use of any gear other than a beach or haul seine, cast net and hook and line gear is prohibited in state waters.

STATE AND FEDERAL WATERS DAILY COMMERCIAL HARVEST LIMITS.

Persons harvesting pompano in state and federal waters pursuant to a saltwater products license with a restricted species endorsement, but do not possess a pompano endorsement, shall be subject to a daily harvest and landing limit of 250 individual pompano. Simultaneous possession of pompano and gill or entangling nets is prohibited in state waters except for persons aboard vessels in continuous non-stop transit across state waters who meet the criteria for exceeding the established bag limit, or who possess an SPL and RS and no more than 100 pompano harvested as in incidental bycatch in gill or entangling nets fished for other species in federal waters only.

A gill net used for the direct harvest of pompano in federal waters must be at least 400 yards long, at least 70 meshes deep at its shallowest point, and have a stretched mesh size of at least 4 ½ inches throughout. The mesh size requirement does not apply to nets used to harvest other targeted species where pompano is retained as an incidental bycatch.



Blue Crab Regulations

The blue crab effort management plan for the commercial blue crab fishery limits both the number of fishermen and traps in the blue crab fishery. A hard crab endorsement (VH, VN), soft crab (VS) and a blue crab incidental take (VI) endorsement can be associated with either an individual or vessel SPL. The cost of a blue crab endorsement fee is \$125 for a hard shell endorsement, \$250 for a soft shell endorsement and \$25 for the incidental take endorsement. **Endorsements must be renewed by September 30.** From these endorsement fees, \$25 is dedicated to the trap retrieval program with the retrieval fee waived for up to 5 traps retrieved during trap retrieval. Traps retrieved during closed season by FWC will be assessed a retrieval fee of \$10 per trap. Commission issued blue crab trap tags will be required on blue crab traps an annual fee of 50 cents per trap tag and can be ordered in increments of 50. Leasing or renting of endorsements, tags or traps is prohibited. Blue crab endorsements will be transferable from October 1, through January 31, but the buyer must purchase the endorsement and trap tags. The buyer must also work no fewer than 14 days fishing blue crab on the buyer's/endorsement holder's vessel and document this activity at the time of transfer. **Requalification: Beginning with license year 2010/2011, the holder of a blue crab effort management endorsement must requalify for the endorsement number by documenting landings in at least one of the three previous license years. Each endorsement number will then be valid for three years from the date of requalification, but must still be renewed annually.**

A **hard crab (VH) endorsement** is required to harvest commercial quantities of hard shell blue. A VH endorsement entitles the owner to fish up to 600 inshore blue crab traps, and an additional 400 traps offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, **per endorsed SPL.** A total of 150 soft crabs per endorsed SPL may be landed daily as bycatch. Fishermen can maintain as many as three shedding tanks without possessing a soft shell crab endorsement.

A **soft crab (VS) endorsement** is required to harvest commercial quantities of soft shell crabs. A VS endorsement allows up to 400 peeler traps to be fished and allows the holder to operate a blue crab shedding facility with greater than 3 shedding tanks. Entities with more than one qualifying SPL are entitled to receive up to 250 additional traps per additional endorsed SPL.

A **hard crab (VN) endorsement** is a nontransferable blue crab endorsement that allows the endorsement holder to deploy 100 hard shell blue crab traps in any state waters where blue crab traps are allowed. A total of 150 soft crabs per endorsed SPL may be landed daily as bycatch. Fishermen can maintain as many as three shedding tanks without possessing a soft crab endorsement. **The non-transferable blue crab endorsement can not be sold or otherwise transferred.** If the holder of a VN endorsement purchases a VH endorsement the non-transferable endorsement shall be forfeited.

A **blue crab (VI) incidental take endorsement** allows persons possessing a valid stone crab endorsement or persons who can demonstrate landings of blue crabs as bycatch using legal shrimping gear, to harvest and sell up to 200 pounds of blue crabs as bycatch, provided the amount does not exceed 200 pounds of blue crabs per vessel per trip.



Stone Crab Regulations

Size and bag limits, closed seasons and license requirements are found in the chart on pages 16-22. Only legal sized claws may be possessed, transported, or sold. Crabs must be kept alive and damp in containers that do not compress them until the claws can be removed. Transport of intact stone crabs or bodies is prohibited. Spears, grains, grabs, or hooks that can puncture or crush crabs are prohibited. Removal of claws from egg-bearing females is prohibited.

Trap certificates and tags are required for all stone crab traps. A valid tag must be securely attached to each trap. Stone crab trap specifications and trap, buoy, and vessel marking requirements apply. Traps, buoys, and vessels must display the X#. Traps must be constructed of wood, plastic, or wire and be no larger than two feet by two feet by two feet or a volume of 8 cubic feet with the entrance (throat) located on a horizontal side of wire traps and on the top of wood and plastic traps. Each plastic trap must have a degradable panel. Each wire trap must have at least three unobstructed escape rings (2 3/8" inside diameter) located on a vertical side of the trap as specified in rule. Refer to the official rules before building or buying traps. Traps may be worked during daylight hours only. Traps may be baited and placed in the water 10 days before the season begins. Stone crab traps are prohibited in all navigation channels of Inland Coastal Waterways or channels marked by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, USCG, state, county or local governments. Pulling another person's trap without express consent of the owner and FWC Law Enforcement is prohibited. Traps must be removed from the water within 5 days after the end of the season.

Spiny Lobster (Crawfish) Regulations

Size limits and closed seasons are found in the "Basic Commercial Saltwater Fishing Regulations" chart on pages 16-22.

An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) and Crawfish (C#) or (CD#) endorsement is required to commercially harvest and sell any spiny lobster.

Additional requirements apply to harvest by diving and with traps.

Spiny lobster retained as an incidental bycatch in a net or trawl other than a hand-held net may not exceed five percent of the total whole weight of all species possessed (all license requirements apply). Spiny lobster may only be sold by or purchased from persons who hold the required licenses and endorsements. A federal permit is required to possess "wrung" tails in or on state waters. Tails must be at least 5 1/2 inches in length (not including muscle tissue). Possession of undersized lobster is prohibited, except as provided for in the Spiny Lobster Trap Fishery section below. Undersized lobster may not be sold. Possession of any egg-bearing lobster is prohibited. Use of any device that could puncture or crush the lobster is prohibited.

The vessel limit for harvest with a bullynet is 250 lobster per vessel per day statewide.

Spiny Lobster Trap Fishery

Trap certificates and tags are required for all traps. A valid tag must be securely attached to each trap. Spiny lobster trap specifications and trap, buoy, and vessel marking requirements apply. Traps, buoys, and vessels must display the C#. Traps must be constructed of wood or plastic and be no larger than three feet by two feet by two feet or the volumetric equivalent (12 cubic feet) with the entrance (throat) located on top of the trap. Each plastic trap must have a degradable panel. Refer to the official rules before building or buying traps. Traps may be baited and placed in the water beginning Aug. 1. Traps may be worked during daylight hours only. Traps may not be placed within 100 feet of the intercoastal waterway or any bridge or seawall. Pulling another person's trap without the express written consent of the owner and FWC Law Enforcement is prohibited. Traps must be removed from the water by April 5 each year. Harvest is prohibited in designated areas of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

A person aboard a vessel with a C# and trap certificates may harvest and possess while on the water 50 undersized spiny lobster (shorts) and one short per trap aboard the boat. Shorts must be released alive and unharmed upon leaving trap lines (livewell specifications apply). The allowance for shorts applies to the trap fishery only and sale is prohibited.

Spiny Lobster Dive Fishery

All vessels used by persons commercially harvesting lobster by diving, scuba or snorkel must display the Commercial Dive Permit (CD#) on the vessel. A dive permit was issued to divers with trip ticket landings between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2003. Trap certificates cannot be held by a person with a CD#. After Jan. 1, 2005, no dive permits will be issued, renewed or replaced except those that were active in 2004-05. Dive permits not renewed by September 30, of each year are forfeited to the FWC.

A 250 lobster per day vessel limit applies in Broward, Dade, Monroe, Collier and Lee counties and adjoining federal waters. Divers must permanently and conspicuously display a "divers down flag" placard on the vessel and affix the CD# to the diagonal stripe with 10" numbers visible from the air and 4" numbers visible from the water. Harvest from artificial habitat is prohibited. Divers must possess a carapace measuring device and measure lobster in the water. The use of bleach or chemical solutions or simultaneous possession of spiny lobster and any plastic container capable of ejecting liquid is prohibited. The recreational bag limit applies when diving at night.



Shellfish (Oysters, Clams & Mussels) Regulations

Shellfish may only be harvested from waters certified by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) as open for harvest. The DACS is authorized to describe, open and temporarily close any shellfish harvesting area. Vessels used to harvest shellfish must have a portable or U.S. Coast Guard approved marine sanitation device with a holding tank and any through valve shut and fixed in a closed position. All vessels must have false bottoms and bulkheads fore and aft to prevent contact with bilge water. The presence of dogs or other animals on vessels is prohibited. Additional shellfish handling and area water quality requirements apply. Refer to Chapter 5-L, F.A.C.

Unauthorized harvest is prohibited within a distance of 25 feet from the lawfully marked lease boundaries or within the setback and access corridors within specifically designated high-density aquaculture lease areas and aquaculture lease areas and aquaculture use zones.

Oyster Regulations

Unless otherwise stated below the basic statewide bag limit and closed seasons and gear restrictions are listed in the chart on page 18.

A bag equals two five-gallon buckets, one ten-gallon bucket, or 60 lbs. of culled oysters in the shell. Undersized oysters must be culled immediately upon harvest and returned to the reef from which they were harvested. Undersized oysters may number no more than five percent (by count) of unattached oysters per bag and no more than 15 percent (by count) attached (such that separation would destroy either oyster) per bag. Vessels connected together, such as towing, may only claim one bag limit all together. Commercial and recreational harvest by any person during the same day is prohibited. Bycatch from trawling or dragging any gear over a public oyster bar should be returned to the water as closely as possible to the beds where taken and transport and sale of bycatch or oysters

taken intentionally is prohibited. Wholesale and retail dealers may not sell oysters unless they are labeled and traceable to the point of harvest.

Upon leaving an area, harvesters must pass through a monitoring station when in operation. Harvest on leased parcels is subject to the established rules unless otherwise exempted by the approved lease provisions.

Harvest from public reefs is prohibited from July 1 – Sept. 30, except as provided below.

In Wakulla, Dixie, and Levy Counties, harvest is prohibited from June 1 – Aug. 31.

In Indian River County, harvest is prohibited within 75 feet of the shoreline of the Indian River; any canal bank, or any privately owned submerged lands, or dock without written permission of the owner. In Volusia County, oysters harvested from an approved public bar may not be stockpiled onto a lease.

Oyster Harvesting In Apalachicola Bay* the following seasonal bag limits and closures apply:

Season	Closed days/Areas/Bag limit
June 1 - Aug. 31	Harvest is prohibited on Fridays and Saturdays. Harvest is allowed only in areas referenced in paragraph 5L - 1.003(1) Table 2 of the DACS Comprehensive Shellfish Control Code.
July 1 - Sept. 30	20 Bags per person per day or vessel, whichever ever is less.
Sept. 1 - Nov. 15	Harvest is prohibited on Saturdays or Sundays.
Oct 1 - June 30	20 bags per person per day.
Nov. 16 - May 31	Harvest is allowed any day of the week, except upon notice of DACS, harvest will be prohibited on Saturdays and Sundays.

*Apalachicola Bay includes St. George Sound, East Bay, Apalachicola Bay, and St. Vincent Sound and their canals, channels, rivers, and creeks; and Indian Lagoon and its canals, channels, rivers, and creeks.



Hard Clam Regulations

Unless otherwise stated below, the basic statewide clam size and bag limits, closed season and gear restrictions are listed in the chart on page 16. Clams may only be harvested from waters certified by DACS as open for harvest.

There is a three percent (by count) per bag allowance for undersized clams. The possession of unsorted clams aboard vessels underway is prohibited. Harvest is prohibited between one-half hour after sunset and

one-half hour before sunrise (this restriction does not apply to properly permitted dredge operations).

Vessel engines must be turned off during manual use of gear. Use of rakes, dredges, or mechanical devices is prohibited in grass beds and pulling such gear under power is prohibited except under a Special Activity License. Vessels must be equipped with shades to shield clams from the sun and cull boards or racks with unobstructed clear space to allow undersized clams to fall through. Undersized

clams must be immediately returned alive to the place where taken.

In Apalachicola Bay, clams may only be harvested by hand, diving, swimming, or leaning from vessels, wading, and by tongs. The use of a dredge is prohibited. In Brevard County, divers must be certified. Harvest is prohibited within 75 feet of the Indian River or Banana River shoreline abutting property that is used for residential purposes or within 75 feet of any canal bank.

Marine Life - Fish*		
Species	Remarks/Bag Limits ■	Size Limits (total length unless otherwise noted)
Angelfish▲	75 per person per day or 150 per vessel per day, whichever is less	Gray, French Angelfish: 1 1/2 -8” slot limit Blue, Queen Angelfish: 1 3/4 -8” slot limit Rock Beauty: 2-5” slot limit
Butterflyfish▲	50 per day/100 per vessel**	1-4” slot limit
Filefish▲/Triggerfish▲	Except Gray and Ocean Triggerfish	
Gobies▲		Maximum size limit: 2”
Hamlets▲/Seabasses▲	Except reef fish† and Longtail Bass	
Jawfish▲		Maximum size limit: 4”
Parrotfish▲		Maximum size limit: 12”
Porkfish	75 per day/150 per vessel**	Minimum size limit: 1 1/2”
Pufferfish▲, Burrfish▲, Balloonfish▲, Porcupinefish▲	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	
Seahorses▲	400 dwarf seahorses per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less	
Tangs▲ and Surgeonfish▲		Maximum size limit (fork length): 9”
Wrasse▲/Hogfish▲/Razorfish	Except Hogfish snapper; Spanish, Cuban Hogfish: 50 of each per day/100 total combined per vessel**	Spanish Hogfish: 2-8” slot limit Cuban Hogfish: 3-8” slot limit

Marine Life - Invertebrates	
Species	Remarks/Bag Limits ■
Anemones	Giant Caribbean anemone (Condylactis spp): 200 per day/400 per vessel***; Corallimorphs: 100 per day/200 per vessel**; Zoanthids: 1 gallon per day/2 gallons per vessel**; Corallimorphs and Zoanthids: must be harvested with a flexible blade no wider than 2”
Corals, Hard (Stony)	Harvest prohibited
Corals, Soft	Harvest of attached substrate within 1” of octocoral base is permitted; harvest closes in response to federal octocoral closures
Crab, Emerald (Green Clinging)	400 per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs; Scarlet reef hermit (Paguristes cadenati): 1 quart per day/2 quarts per vessel**; Blue-legged/tricolor hermit crabs (Clibanarius tricolor): 1 quart per day/per vessel, whichever is less
Live Rock	Aquaculture only; live rock lease and/or state and/or federal permits required
Octopods	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; 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	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Starsnails (Lithopoma americanum, Lithopoma tectum, Astralium phoebium)	One gallon per day/ 2 gallons per vessel**
Urchins	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

*MLD or MLN required for use and possession of quinaldine used to harvest tropical fish (Special Activity License also required).

■ MLB endorsement holders using gears other than those listed in 68B-42.007 F.A.C.: 20 total marine life species per day; **only 5 of any one species allowed.**

▲Collection prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. See Chapter 68B-5 F.A.C. for other prohibited species including Bigeyes, Bonnetmouths, Dragonets, Goatfishes, Muraenesocids, Pikeblennies, Sand Stargazers, Scorpionfish, Sea chubs, Soapfishes, Soles, Spaghetti Eels, Squirrelfishes, Stargazers, Threadfins, and Tonguefishes. Collection of most fish species less than 8 inches total length is prohibited within John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park unless a minimum size limit is otherwise established by rule or law.

**Bag limit is per unique SPL number with a marine life endorsement; vessel possession limit is per vessel with two or more unique SPL numbers with marine life endorsements aboard.

†Such as groupers, snappers, sea bass, and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on page 8-9.








***Bag limit is per unique SPL number with unique marine life endorsement; vessel possession limit is per vessel with two or more unique SPL numbers with unique marine life endorsements aboard.










Other Marine Life fish include*▲: 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▲, Sleepers, Yellow Stingray, Sweepers▲, Toadfish▲, Trumpetfish▲, and Trunkfish▲/Cowfish▲









Other Marine Life invertebrates include▲: Brittlestars, Decorator (Furcate Spider) Crab, False Arrow Crab, Nimble Spray (Urchin) Crab, Red Mithrax Crab, Red Ridged Clinging Crab, Spotted Porcelain Crab, Yellowline Arrow Crab, Fileclams, Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs, Sea Cucumbers, Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails, Featherduster Worms, and Calcareous Tube Worms.









Marine Life plants include: Coralline red algae, Caulerpa, Halimeda/Mermaid’s Fan/Mermaid’s Shaving Brush








Basic Commercial Fishes Regulation Chart







Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Baitfish 	None	None	None	Local baitfish restrictions apply. See: Baitfish Regulations. p. 5
Ballyhoo (halfbeaks, balao, and silver stripe halfbeaks) 	None			*Lampara Net Endorsement (L) and/or Purse Seine (PS) endorsement may be required. Allowable gear: Cast net, hook and line gear, landing or dip net, lampara net. Use of a lampara net prohibited Aug. 1 - Aug. 31. Prohibition applies to state and federal waters. License requirements and bag limits are determined by the method of harvest and gear used. p. 22
Black Drum ▲ † 	14" - 24" TL	500 lbs. per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less.	None	*RS required. Prohibition on multiple or snatch hook applies to state and federal waters. Maximum size limit applies to sale. Bag limit applies regardless of the possession or use of additional vessels. Harvest prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Blue Crab 	5"		See: pg.8	*RS required. Gear and harvest specifications and size and bag limits differ for the various fishery segments (bycatch, peeler crabs, or live bait).
Bluefish ▲ 	12" FL	Atlantic north of Monroe County - 7,500 lbs. per vessel per day. Other state and federal waters - None.	None	*RS required. Limits and gear restrictions apply in state and federal waters of the Atlantic north of Monroe Co. Nets must be tended. May set no more than 1 net per vessel. No more than 2 nets may be on a vessel, unless nets differ by 1/4" mesh size and 25 meshes in depth. Nets may not be soaked more than 1 hr. Specific gear restrictions and net marking requirements apply to nets other than purse seines. In Atlantic waters, nets must be no more than 600 yards long (connected or unconnected) with stretched mesh size no less than 3 inches. Size limit applies to sale of fish.
Blue Land Crab 	None	20 crabs per person possession limit.	July 1 - Oct. 31	Allowable gear: by hand or landing or dip net Use of bleach or other chemical solutions prohibited. Harvest from road or right-of-way or state park prohibited. Prohibitions do not apply to imported crabs. Possession, stripping, purchase, and sale of eggbearing crabs prohibited.
Clams, Hard 	1" thickness across hinge	Sorted - None. Unsorted - 1 bushel per vessel.	None	Allowable gear: use of feet, hands, rakes, tongs. Rakes and tongs with more than 7/8" space between teeth or bars or dividers in basket prohibited. Wire or net may not be used in basket of manual rakes and tongs. A Brevard County Clam License is required to harvest hard clams in Brevard County. See: Hard Clam Regulations on p. 14.

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Cobia (Ling) ▲ 	33" FL	2 fish per person per day, maximum of 6 per vessel.	None	*RS required. May not possess a recreational bag limit and a commercial bag limit at the same time. Size limit applies to sale.
Dolphin ▲ 	20" FL	Directed harvest - None. Incidental bycatch - 10 fish per person.	None	*FP & RS required. FP for Atlantic. Allowable gear: hook and line gear, longline gear (federal waters only), and spearing. Size limit applies to purchase and sale of fish.
Eels other than moray and snake eels 	None	None	None	"Marine Life" regulations apply to moray and snake eels. See: "Marine Life" Regulations on p. 15. Harvest of spaghetti eels is prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Flounder - Gulf, southern, summer, fringed ▲ † 	12" TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs. shrimp trawls	None	*RS required. Allowable gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line gear, and spearing. In Volusia County, spearing with barbed spear having more than 3 prongs prohibited. Size limit applies to sale of fish.
Groupers ▲ 	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations.	See: "Reef Fish" Regulations. pgs. 8 & 9		See: Updated "Reef Fish" Regulations. pgs. 8 & 9
Herring (blueback and river herring) 	None	None	None	Allowable gear: hook and line gear only. Spearing prohibited.
Hogfish ▲ 	12" FL	None	None	Size limit applies to imported fish
Horseshoe Crab 	None	25 crab per person per day or 100 per person per day w/ ML#	None	Allowable gear: by hand or gig. Limits extend to docks, piers, bridges, beaches and adjacent fishing sites. A biomedical collection permit is required for collecting blood (crabs must be released alive in the area where collected).
Jacks (Amberjacks) ▲ 		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations. p. 9		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations on p. 9

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Jellyfish 	None	None	None	Harvest with gear other than a cast net with a radius of no more than 12.5', a beach or haul seine, a paired trawl with a stretched mesh size no less than 3 1/2" in the wing and 1 1/2" in the bag, no more than 2 wing nets with a perimeter no greater than 40 feet and a mesh size no less than 3 1/2", or more than 2 dip nets is prohibited.
Lobster, Slipper 	None	None	None	Possession of eggbearing lobster prohibited. Possession prohibited in designated area of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Lobster, Spiny 	3" carapace (head) 5 1/2" tail	Trap fishery - None Bully Net- 250 lobster vessel limit. Dive Fishery - Regional See: Spiny Lobster Regulations page 13	April 1 - Aug. 5	*RS, C# required. CD# required for divers. Allowable gear: by diving, traps, hand-held net, hoop net (diameter no longer than 10'), or bully net (diameter no larger than 3'). Specific restrictions and requirements depend on the method of harvest. See: Spiny Lobster Regulations on page 13
Mackerel, King ▲ 	24" FL	See: King Mackerel Regulations. p. 10	Regional	*RS, FP required for commercial harvest in federal waters and to exceed the recreational bag limit in state waters. Allowable Gear: Atlantic fishery - hook and line gear and spearing.
Mackerel, Spanish ▲ 	12" FL	See: Spanish Mackerel Regulations. p. 10	Regional	*RS required. Allowable Gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line gear, or by spearing.
Mullet, Silver (white, fantail, or redeye) ▲ 	None	See: Mullet Regulations on page 11	Regional	*RS required. See Mullet Regulations on on page 11.
Mullet, Striped (black) ▲ 	11" FL w/ a 10% allowance by weight for undersize fish	See: Mullet Regulations on page 11	Regional	*RS required. See Mullet Regulations on on page 11.
Oysters 	3" in greatest dimension.	20 bags per person or vessel per day, whichever is less. Additional regional limits apply. See: Oyster Regulations. p. 14	Regional	*AP required in Apalachicola Bay. Allowable gear: by hand, diving, swimming, or leaning from vessels, wading, and by tongs. Use and possession dredges or other mechanical devices is prohibited over beds. Harvest is prohibited between sunset or the posted daily closing time and sunrise. Local and regional restrictions and bag limits apply. See: Oyster Regulations on p. 14.

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Permit ▲ † 	11" - 20" FL		None	*RS required. Allowable gear: hook and line gear. Spearing prohibited. Size limit applies to sale and purchase of fish.
Pompano ▲ † 	11" - 20" FL	250 fish per person or per vessel per day except for persons holding a *P#. See: "Pompano Regulations" p. 11	None	*RS, P# required. Size limit applies to purchase and sale of fish. Use of gear other than a beach or haul seine, cast net, and hook and line gear is prohibited in state waters. Gill nets may be used in designated federal waters. Additional gear limitations and exceptions to the bag limit apply to harvest in federal waters. See: "Pompano Regulations" on p. 11.
Pompano, African · † 	24" FL	2 fish per person or per vessel per day, whichever is less.	None	*RS required. Allowable gear: hook and line gear. Spearing prohibited.
Red Porgy ▲ 	14" TL	50 lbs. daily vessel limit (Atlantic)	Jan 1 - April 30	Incidental bycatch of Red Porgy harvested in the Atlantic during the closed season is limited to one fish and may not be sold.
Scallops, Calico 	None	250 individual meats per 1lb. sample.	None	Bycatch of other species prohibited. Gear and harvest specifications apply.
Shad (Alabama, American, hickory) 	None	10 fish per person	None	Allowable gear: hook and line gear only. Spearing prohibited.
Sharks 	None	1 shark per person per day or 2 sharks per vessel, whichever is less.	Federal closure applies in state waters.	*FP required. Spearing and filleting prohibited. Finning prohibited in state waters. State waters close when adjacent federal waters close. Purchase and sale of sharks landed after the closure date is prohibited. A federal permit is required for sale. Federal regulations apply regardless of where sharks are harvested (use of traps prohibited). Gear and license requirements apply when retained as bycatch. Harvest and landing of some species prohibited. See: Prohibited Species on p. 24.
Sheepshead ▲ † 	12" TL	Incidental bycatch - 50 lbs. shrimp trawls	None	*RS required. Allowable gear: beach or haul seine, cast net, hook and line gear, and spearing.

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Seashells (Live Shellfish) 	None	Manatee County - 2 shellfish of any single species per day. Lee County - Harvest Prohibited.	None	ML# required for the harvest of some species. See: "Marine Life" Regulations on p. 15. The term "Live Shellfish" includes mollusks and echinoderms such as clams, snails, starfish, brittle stars, urchins, sanddollars, etc. Manatee and Lee county prohibitions on harvest do not apply to shells that are empty when collected or to live oysters, hard clams, sunray venus clams, and coquinas.
Shrimp (Brown, Pinkspotted, Pink, White, Roughneck, Roughback, Seabob) 	None	Food Shrimp - Regional. Live Shrimp - 5 gallons dead shrimp, heads on, except in NE Region, 1 gallon.	Regional	*RS required; other licenses required in Tampa Bay and St. Johns River (TB#, DS#, LS#). Regional harvest and gear restrictions, size and bag limits, closed seasons, license requirements, and fishing gear limitations apply. Shrimp may not be harvested as live bait and food shrimp on the same trip. Turtle Excluder Device (TED) required on all otter and skimmer trawls, except single try net or roller from trawl. Otter and skimmer trawls must have bycatch reduction device (BRD) installed.
Shrimp, Other 		See: "Marine Life" Regulations. pgs 15 and 23		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on pgs. 15 and 23.
Snappers ▲ 		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations. pgs. 8 & 9		See: "Reef Fish" Regulations. pgs. 8 & 9.
Sponges, Commercial 	5", wet, across the top.	None	None	*Q# required. Commercial sponges = sheepswool, yellow, grass, finger, wire, reef, and velvet sponges. Size limit = measurement in greatest dimension across the top of the sponge and applies to possession and sale within the state. Hooks must be 5" wide. Diving prohibited, except in the Big Bend & Southwest Florida areas.
Sponges, Others 		See: "Marine Life" Regulations. pgs. 15 & 23		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on pgs 15 and 23.
Spotted Seatrout ▲ † 	15" - 24" TL	75 fish per person per day or per vessel, whichever is less.	Sept. 1 - May 31	*RS required. Allowable gear: cast net or hook and line. Sparring prohibited. Simultaneous possession of gill nets and seatrout is prohibited. Towing extra vessel to exceed bag limit is prohibited. Purchase and sale prohibited after Sept. 5 (does not apply to imported fish). Size limit applies to sale of fish.

Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Stone Crab 	2 3/4" claw	None Incidental bycatch - 5 gallons	May 16 - Oct. 14	*RS, X# or I# required. Landings limited to legal size claws measured by a straight line from the elbow to the tip of the lower immovable finger. Transport and sale of intact crabs prohibited. License, trap and harvest specifications apply. See: Stone Crab Regulations on page 13.
Swordfish 	47" lower jaw FL, 29" cleithrum to keel length, or 33 lbs. dressed	None	None	*FP required for harvest and sale. Spearing prohibited. Size limits apply to fish damaged by shark bites. "Lower jaw FL" = a straight-line measurement from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the caudal fin. "Cleithrum to keel length" = a curved measurement from the point of the cleithrum that provides the measurement along the body contour to the anterior portion of the caudal keel. The cleithrum is the semicircular bony structure at the posterior edge of the gill opening. A dressed fish may have its head, viscera, and fins removed, but its backbone and remaining carcass must remain intact and not be halved, quartered or otherwise further reduced.
Triggerfish, Gray ▲ 	14" FL	None		Size limit applies to imported fish
Triggerfish, Ocean 	None	None	None	Harvest prohibited in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.
Triggerfish, Other 		See: "Marine Life" Regulations. pgs. 15 and 23		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on pgs. 15 and 23.
Tripletail ▲ † 	15" TL	10 per person per day or per vessel, whichever is less. Incidental bycatch - 2 per person per day or per vessel, whichever is less.	None	*RS required. Allowable gear: hook and line. Spearing prohibited. Size limit applies to sale of fish.




Species & Area	Size Limit	Trip Limit/ Bag Limit	Closed Season	Other Regulations
Tropical Ornamentals 		See: "Marine Life" Regulations. pgs. 15 and 23		See: "Marine Life" Regulations on pgs. 15 and 23..
Wahoo ▲ 	None	500 lb. Commercial Daily Limit	None	*RS & FP required on the Atlantic coast.
Weakfish (gray seatrout or yellow-mouth trout) ▲ 	12" TL	None	None	Spearing is prohibited. Size limit applies to sale of fish.

Chart Key

▲ Must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (head & tail intact)	C# = crawfish endorsement required.	MLD#, MLB#, MLN# = marine life endorsement required to species designated as "Marine Life" including "Live Shellfish" species such as urchins, starfish, starsnails, sanddollars.
† Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait or any snatch hook.	CD# = commercial dive permit required to harvest spiny lobster for commercial purposes by diving.	P# = pompano endorsement applies to Cape Sable-Hurricane Pass area federal gill net fishery only. See "Pompano Regulations".
TL = total length measure; Tip of snout to tip of tail.	DS#/LS# = in St. Johns River, food shrimp or live shrimp production license required (moratorium in place for DS).	Q# = sponge endorsement.
FL = fork length measure; Tip of snout to fork of tail.	FP = federal permit.	RS = restricted species endorsement.
* A Saltwater Products License (SPL) is required for commercial harvest and sale of all saltwater products. Additional Licenses, Permits, and Endorsements may also be required. See: Commercial Saltwater Fishing License Requirements	I# = incidental catch endorsement required to sell up to 5 gallons of stone crab claws harvested in lawful commercial blue crab and spiny lobster traps by persons who hold a C# and/or V# and no X#.	TB# = in Tampa Bay, food shrimp production license required (moratorium in place).
AP = Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services Apalachicola Bay Oyster harvesting license.	L# = lampara net endorsement required to harvest more than 10 gallons of Ballyhoo per vessel per day.	VH#, VS#, VN#, VI# = blue crab endorsements required to sell or harvest blue crab, harvest in commercial quantities, or harvest with more than 5 traps.
		X# = stone crab endorsement.

Ballyhoo Regulations

Ballyhoo (halfbeaks, balao, and silver stripe halfbeaks) License Requirements and Bag Limits by Method of Harvest and Gear Used:

Harvest Method	Gear Used	License Requirements	Bag Limit
Directed harvest	Cast net, hook and line gear, landing or dip net.	Saltwater Products License (SPL)	5 gallons fish per person per day or per vessel.
Directed harvest	Lampara net.	SPL, with both Purse Seine (PS) and Lampara Net (L) endorsements.	10 boxes of fish per vessel (limit one trip per day). ‡
Incidental bycatch	Purse seine or lampara net.	SPL, PS	10 gallons per person per day or per vessel.
Incidental bycatch	All other gear.	SPL	5 gallons fish per person or per vessel per day.

‡ Boxes must have rectangular or square sides, a base and lid with a dimension no larger than 4.25 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet (the volume equivalent of 17 feet³).

Baitfish Regulations

Basic size and bag limits, closed seasons, license requirements, and gear allowances are listed on pages 6 and 7. All license requirements and general commercial fishing limitations apply to species harvested as baitfish. Local limitations also apply to the use of nets to harvest baitfish, such as herring, menhaden, or sardines, in waters off the coasts of Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Charlotte, Collier, Lee and Sarasota counties. Contact the regional FWC Law Enforcement Office before using nets to commercially harvest baitfish. See: FWC Law Enforcement Regional Offices on page 3.

A National Marine Sanctuary Permit is required to harvest ballyhoo or herring in the Newfound Harbor Key, Cheeca Rocks, Eastern Dry Rocks, Hens and Chickens, Rock Key and Sand Key sanctuary preservation areas (SPAs). All bycatch other than ballyhoo, balao, halfbeaks, or herring must be returned to the water alive. Lampara nets are prohibited in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Newfound Harbor Key SPA, and cast nets used in Newfound Harbor Key SPA can be no greater than 500 square feet in area (12'7" radius). Cast nets and/or modified lampara nets that are no greater than 500 square feet in area may be used in the Sand Key, Rock Key, Eastern Dry Rocks, Hens and Chickens, and Cheeca Rocks SPAs. Contact with or disturbance of the seabed is prohibited in the SPAs. Harvest of baitfish by hook and line in the Newfound Harbor Key, Cheeca Rocks, Eastern Dry Rocks, Hens and Chickens, Rock Key and Sand Key SPAs is prohibited.



Photo by Cliff Leonard

Total Length Measurement

Prior to the Commission approving a new definition for Total Length, FWC rules did not consistently state how to obtain total length, leaving this measurement open to interpretation by commercial fisherman and law enforcement officers.

Modifying the definition of total length will eliminate confusion for commercial fisherman and provide a consistent, well defined measurement technique. This method should encourage commercial fisherman compliance with fishery management regulations.

Total Length Measurement

Total Length is now measured from the most forward point of the head, with the mouth closed, to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed, while the fish is lying on its side.

Fork Length Measurement

Fish regulated by fork length are measured from the tip of the jaw or tip of the snout with closed mouth to the center of the fork in the tail.

“Marine Life” Regulations (Tropical/Ornamentals)

Marine Life Chart on Page 15

FWC has developed a rule to control fishing effort in the commercial marine life fishery. Florida’s commercial marine life fishery involves harvest of live saltwater finfish, invertebrates and plants, primarily for the aquarium trade. These organisms are landed and sold alive to wholesalers, retailers and aquarium owners. An SPL with a Restricted Species (RS) and Marine Life tiered endorsement is required for harvest of marine life species listed in rule 68B-42, F.A.C.

Marine Life Transferable Dive (MLD)

Required to harvest commercial quantities of listed marine life species using allowable gears, including harvest by diving. Initially issued to applicants with a reported income of at least \$5000 from landings of marine life species or live rock during one of the license years between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2003. The MLD is transferable to another person with an SPL & RS. Requalification for this endorsement begins in 2010/2011, based on prior years landings.

Marine Life Bycatch Endorsement (MLB)

Required to harvest commercial quantities of marine life as bycatch which does not include harvest by diving. For persons who collected marine life primarily as bycatch in other fisheries, with gear other than diving gear, and with reported sales of less than \$5000 during one of the qualifying years. The bycatch endorsement is also transferable.

Marine Life Non-Transferable Dive (MLN)

Required to harvest commercial quantities of marine life by diving using dive gear for persons who had less than \$5000 in marine life landings or held a state live rock lease or federal live rock permit during one of the qualifying years and wish to harvest by diving. This endorsement is only transferable to immediate family members in the event of death or disability.

Puffer Fish Ban

Puffer fish caught in Brevard County have been found to contain saxitoxin, which causes a response similar to paralytic shellfish poisoning in humans. A long term prohibition of the harvest of puffer fish on Florida’s central east coast is necessary until it is determined that saxitoxin is no longer present in this area. The FWC has approved a rule that prohibits the harvest of all puffer fish (Genus Sphoeroides) from the waters of Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martian counties.

The following species may not be commercially harvested and/or sold in Florida.

Fish		Invertebrates
Bonefish	Snook	Coral - Black, Fire, Hard, Stony
Grouper - Goliath, Nassau, Warsaw, Speckled Hind	Spearfish	Crab - Mitten
Marlin - Blue, White	Sturgeon (Gulf or Atlantic)	Live Rock - unless from lease
Ray - Manta, Spotted Eagle	Tarpon	Queen Conch
Red Drum (Red fish)		Scallops - Bay
Sailfish		Seafans - Common, Venus
Sawfishes		Starfish - Bahama
Shark - Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Sand Tiger, Spiny Dogfish, Whale, White, Atlantic Angel Shark, Bigeye Sixgill Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Dusky Shark, Galapagos Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Night Shark, Sevengill Shark, Sixgill Shark, and Smalltail Shark		Urchin - Longspine

Commercially Prohibited Species

The prohibition on the sale of warsaw grouper and speckled hind does not apply to legally imported fish or fish harvested from federal waters.

Possession, harvest, destruction, and sale of fresh, uncleaned, or uncured sea fan, hard or stony coral or fire coral is prohibited (does not apply to such species harvested outside state waters or adjacent federal waters and lawfully entering the state through interstate or international commerce and with acceptable proof of origin documenting the initial place of harvest and original sales transaction).

The prohibitions on the harvest and possession of live queen conch apply to Florida registered vessels in adjacent federal waters, but not to queen conch shells that are empty when collected. Licensed wholesale or retail

dealers may possess conch meat when documentation is present to show that such meat was legally imported from a foreign country. Possession of shells with an off-center hole larger than 1/16 inch in diameter through the spire is prohibited in or on the waters of Florida.

Simultaneous possession of bay scallops and any trawl, drag, dredge or net other than a landing dip net is prohibited. Documentation on scallops harvested out-of-state and entering the state in interstate commerce must be maintained and presented upon request.

Industry Input is Key to Fishery Management

Feedback offered by one fisherman or dealer can make a difference. Fishermen who cannot attend Commission meetings are encouraged to send comments to the Commission and to respond to questionnaires. The Division of Marine Fisheries Management Commercial Outreach Program can be reached by phone at 850-922-4340 Extension 204 or by e-mail at daniel.ellinor@myfwc.com or look for updates on the web at MyFWC.com.

Planning a Move?

Don't forget to let the office of licensing and permitting know your new mailing address!
850-487-3122

For Additional Information Please Contact:
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management
2590 Executive Center Circle East Suite 203
Berkley Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
MyFWC.com



PRFRT. STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TALLAHASSEE, FL
PERMIT 20