### Snapper

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

**Snapper, Cubera**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 12" (see remarks)
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 10 per harvester under 30", included within snapper aggregate bag limit.
  - May additionally harvest up to 2 per harvester or vessel-whichever is less-over 30", and these 2 fish over 30" are not included within snapper aggregate bag limit.

**Snapper, Red**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 20"
  - Gulf: 16"
- **Season:**
  - Atlantic: Open year-round
  - Gulf: Closed, visit MyFWC.com for 2019 season
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 2 per harvester
  - Gulf: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.

**Snapper, Vermillion**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 10"
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: Open year-round
  - Gulf: 4 per harvester

**Snapper, Lane**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 8"
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 10 per harvester
  - Gulf: 100 pounds per harvester net included within the snapper aggregate bag limit.

### Other Snapper

**Minimum Size Limits:**
- Atlantic and Gulf: 12"
- Daily Recreational Bag Limit: Atlantic and Gulf: 10 per harvester

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

**Snapper, Gray (Mangrove)**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 10"
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 5 per harvester

**Snapper, Mutton**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 18"
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 5 per harvester

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

**Snapper, Black & Wenchman**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 10 per harvester

### Grouper

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

**Gulf Grouper General Regulations:**
- Gulf grouper regulations apply to all state waters of the Gulf except off Monroe County (where Atlantic rules apply).
- Gulf Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit: All species of gulf grouper are included in a 9 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of gulf species.
- Seasons – If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.
- Zero daily recreational bag limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels applies to gag, black and red grouper only.

**Grouper, Black**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 24"
  - Gulf: 24"
- **Season:**
  - Atlantic: Closed Jan. 1–April 30
  - Gulf: Open year-round
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 1 per harvester
  - Gulf: 4 per harvester

**Grouper, Snowy**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 1 per harvester
  - Gulf: 4 per harvester

**Grouper, Red**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 20"
  - Gulf: 16"
- **Season:**
  - Atlantic: Closed Jan. 1–April 30
  - Gulf: Open year-round
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 2 per harvester
  - Gulf: 2 per harvester

**Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 1 per vessel per day of each species

**Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf: 20"
- **Season:**
  - Atlantic: Closed Jan. 1–April 30
  - Gulf: Open year-round
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 3 per harvester
  - Gulf: 6 per harvester

**Gag Grouper**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 24"
  - Gulf: 24"
- **Season:**
  - Atlantic: Closed Jan. 1–April 30
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 1 per harvester. Only 1 fish can be gag or black.
  - Gulf: 2 per harvester

**Grouper, Scamp**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 20"
  - Gulf: 16"
- **Season:**
  - Atlantic: Closed Jan. 1–April 30
  - Gulf: Open year-round
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 3 per harvester
  - Gulf: 6 per harvester

**Remarks**
- In Florida waters, gag or black are included in the snapper aggregate bag limit.

**Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations**

**Issued:** October 2018

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

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

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

**Amberjack, Greater** ▲ ★ ★
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 28” fork length
  - Gulf: 34” fork length
- **Season:** Atlantic - Open year-round
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester

**Great Barracuda** ▲ ★ ★
- **Regulations only apply in Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties.**
- **Size Limits:** Not less than 15” or more than 36”
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** 2 per person or 6 per vessel, per day
- **Remarks:** Unregulated in all other areas.

**Hogfish** ▲ ★ ★
- **Atlantic regulations apply to Monroe County**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 18” fork length
  - Gulf: 14” fork length
- **Season:** Atlantic - Open May 1 - October 31, Gulf - Open year-round
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** Atlantic - 1 per harvester, Gulf - 5 per harvester

**Tilefish, Golden** ▲ ★
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:** Atlantic - 1 per harvester, Gulf - 6 per harvester
- **Remarks:** Golden tilefish included within Atlantic and Gulf Grouper aggregate bag limits.

**Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish** ▲ ★ ★
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic and Gulf - Cannot be less than 14” or greater than 22” fork length
  - Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per person aggregate of the two species.
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 1 per harvester
  - Gulf: 5 per harvester

**Black Sea Bass** ▲ ★ ★
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 13”
  - Gulf: 10”
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 1 per harvester
  - Gulf: 100 pounds per harvester

**Red Porgy** ▲ ★ ★ ★
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 14”
  - Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 3 per harvester
  - Gulf: 100 pounds

**Cobia (Ling)** ▲ ★
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 33” fork length
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 1 per harvester
  - Gulf: 2 per harvester per person or 6 per vessel, per day

**Swordfish**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 47” lower jaw fork length with head attached or 25” cleithrum to keel length if head removed
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed a maximum of 4 per recreational (not for-hire) vessel or 15 per for-hire vessel per day
- **Remarks:** All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmspermits.noaa.gov. HMS permit required in federal waters.

**Mackerel, King**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 24” fork length
  - Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic (excluding Monroe): 2 per harvester
  - Gulf (including Monroe): 3 per harvester
- **Remarks:** Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters if federal waters are closed to recreational harvest.

**Mackerel, Spanish**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 12” fork length
  - Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 15 per harvester

**Wahoo**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - 2 per harvester

**Tripletail**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - 18”
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - 2 per harvester
- **Remarks:** Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.

**Dolphinfish**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 20” fork length
  - Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - 10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day. Vessel limit does not apply to for-hire vessels.

Pelagics

**Billfish** ▲ ★
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Sailfish 63”
  - Blue Marlin 99”
  - White Marlin 66”
  - Roundscale Spearfish 66”
- **Season:** Atlantic - Open May 1 - October 31, Gulf - Open year-round

**Swordfish**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 47” lower jaw fork length with head attached or 25” cleithrum to keel length if head removed
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - 1 per harvester per day, not to exceed a maximum of 4 per recreational (not for-hire) vessel or 15 per for-hire vessel per day
- **Remarks:** All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528 or hmspermits.noaa.gov. HMS permit required in federal waters.

**Mackerel, Spanish**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 12” fork length
  - Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - Atlantic: 15 per harvester

**Dolphinfish**
- **Minimum Size Limits:**
  - Atlantic: 20” fork length
  - Gulf: None
- **Daily Recreational Bag Limit:**
  - 10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day. Vessel limit does not apply to for-hire vessels.
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 not have specific regulations, harvesting more than 100 pounds or two organisms if the combined weight of the two organisms exceeds 100 pounds.

### 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>Bluefish</td>
<td>12” fork length</td>
<td>10 per harvester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flounder</td>
<td>12”</td>
<td>10 per harvester</td>
<td>May be harvested by spearing, Snatching prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonefish</td>
<td>24” fork length</td>
<td>2 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pompano</td>
<td>African</td>
<td>24” fork length</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pompano, Florida</td>
<td>11” fork length</td>
<td>50 aggregate per harvester</td>
<td>Hook and line only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullet, Striped (Black) &amp; Silver</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
<td>50 fish per harvester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Drum (Redfish)</td>
<td>No less than 18” or more than 27”</td>
<td>1 per harvester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Runner</td>
<td>No minimum</td>
<td>100 fish per harvester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unregulated Species

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

### Additional Regulations

- No license is required to harvest lionfish by dipnet, pole spear or Hawaiian sling and lionfish bag limit is unlimited for both Gulf and Atlantic state waters.
- State regulations apply in federal waters.
- Additional gear rules apply, please see: MyFWC.com
- Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook (any hook with two or more points and a common shaft) in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.
- Gulf reef fish survey required when fishing for selected reef species from a private vessel in the Gulf of Mexico.

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Floride Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Crustaceans and Mollusks

Bay Scallops

Season: Closed, visit MyFWC.com for 2019 season
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester per day; no more than 10 gallons whole, or 1/2 gallon meat per vessel anytime
Remarks: Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Passaic-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.

Spiny Lobster

Minimum Size Limit: Carapace must be greater than 3” measured in the water
Seasons:
• Sport Season open July 25–26, 2018
• Regular Season opens Aug. 6 through March 31
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: Sport Season: 6 per harvester in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 per harvester in all other harvest areas. Regular Season: 6 per harvester in all areas
Remarks: Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny lobster permit required when licensee required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.

Crab, Stone

Minimum Size Limits: 1 gal. claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less
Seasons: Closed
Remarks: 5 traps maximum. Visit MyFWC.com for statewide trap construction requirements and specific requirements that apply in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

Oysters

Minimum Size Limit: 3”
Closed Season:
• June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
• July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay
Remarks: Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.

Shrimp

Closed Season:
• April & May closed in Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 5 gallons heads on per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less
Remarks: Visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing and select “Saltwater”, “Regulations” and “Shrimp” for additional regulations specific to Duval, Nassau and Oconee

Clams (Hard)

Minimum Size Limits: 1” thick across hinge
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel (whole in shell)
Remarks: Illegal to harvest from closed areas.
Go to www.FloridaAquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas. May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.

Crab, Blue

Closed Season: Regional trap closures apply. Visit MyFWC.com for 2018 trap closure dates and locations.
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 10 gallons whole per harvester
Remarks: 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

Oysters

Minimum Size Limit: 3”
Closed Season:
• June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
• July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay
Remarks: Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.

Spiny Lobster

Minimum Size Limit: Carapace must be greater than 3” measured in the water
Seasons:
• Sport Season open July 25–26, 2018
• Regular Season opens Aug. 6 through March 31
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: Sport Season: 6 per harvester in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 per harvester in all other harvest areas. Regular Season: 6 per harvester in all areas
Remarks: Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny lobster permit required when licensee required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.

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Closed Season:
• April & May closed in Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties
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Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 10 gallons whole per harvester
Remarks: 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

Oysters

Minimum Size Limit: 3”
Closed Season:
• June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
• July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay
Remarks: Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.

Crustaceans and Mollusks

Bay Scallops
Season: Closed, visit MyFWC.com for 2019 season
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester per day; no more than 10 gallons whole, or 1/2 gallon meat per vessel anytime
Remarks: Harvest allowed only in state waters of the Gulf of Mexico from the Passaic-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.

Spiny Lobster
Minimum Size Limit: Carapace must be greater than 3” measured in the water
Seasons:
• Sport Season open July 25–26, 2018
• Regular Season opens Aug. 6 through March 31
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: Sport Season: 6 per harvester in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 per harvester in all other harvest areas. Regular Season: 6 per harvester in all areas
Remarks: Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny lobster permit required when licensee required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.

Crab, Stone
Minimum Size Limits: 1 gal. claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less
Seasons:
Closed
Remarks: 5 traps maximum. Visit MyFWC.com for statewide trap construction requirements and specific requirements that apply in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

Oysters
Minimum Size Limit: 3”
Closed Season:
• June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
• July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay
Remarks: Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.

Shrimp
Closed Season:
• April & May closed in Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 5 gallons heads on per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less
Remarks: Visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing and select “Saltwater”, “Regulations” and “Shrimp” for additional regulations specific to Duval, Nassau and Oconee

Clams (Hard)
Minimum Size Limits: 1” thick across hinge
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel (whole in shell)
Remarks: Illegal to harvest from closed areas.
Go to www.FloridaAquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas. May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.

Crab, Blue
Closed Season: Regional trap closures apply. Visit MyFWC.com for 2018 trap closure dates and locations.
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 10 gallons whole per harvester
Remarks: 5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.

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Minimum Size Limit: 3”
Closed Season:
• June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties.
• July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas except Apalachicola Bay which has open areas year-round.
Daily Recreational Bag Limit: 2 bags per harvester or vessel except Apalachicola Bay
Remarks: Apalachicola Bay: special bag limits and other harvest restrictions apply. See MyFWC.com for detailed information.

Prohibited Species

It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell or exchange the following species:
Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Sawfish, Atlantic Angel Shark, Basking Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Spearfish, Smooth Dogfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Mediterranean Sawfish, Queen Conch, Calico Scallops, Black Coral, Stony, Hard and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Bahama Starfish, and Longspine Urchin. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited. Puffer fish harvest is prohibited in Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties.

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.