

FISHING REGULATIONS



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Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic | Issued: January 1, 2018

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Conservation Commission

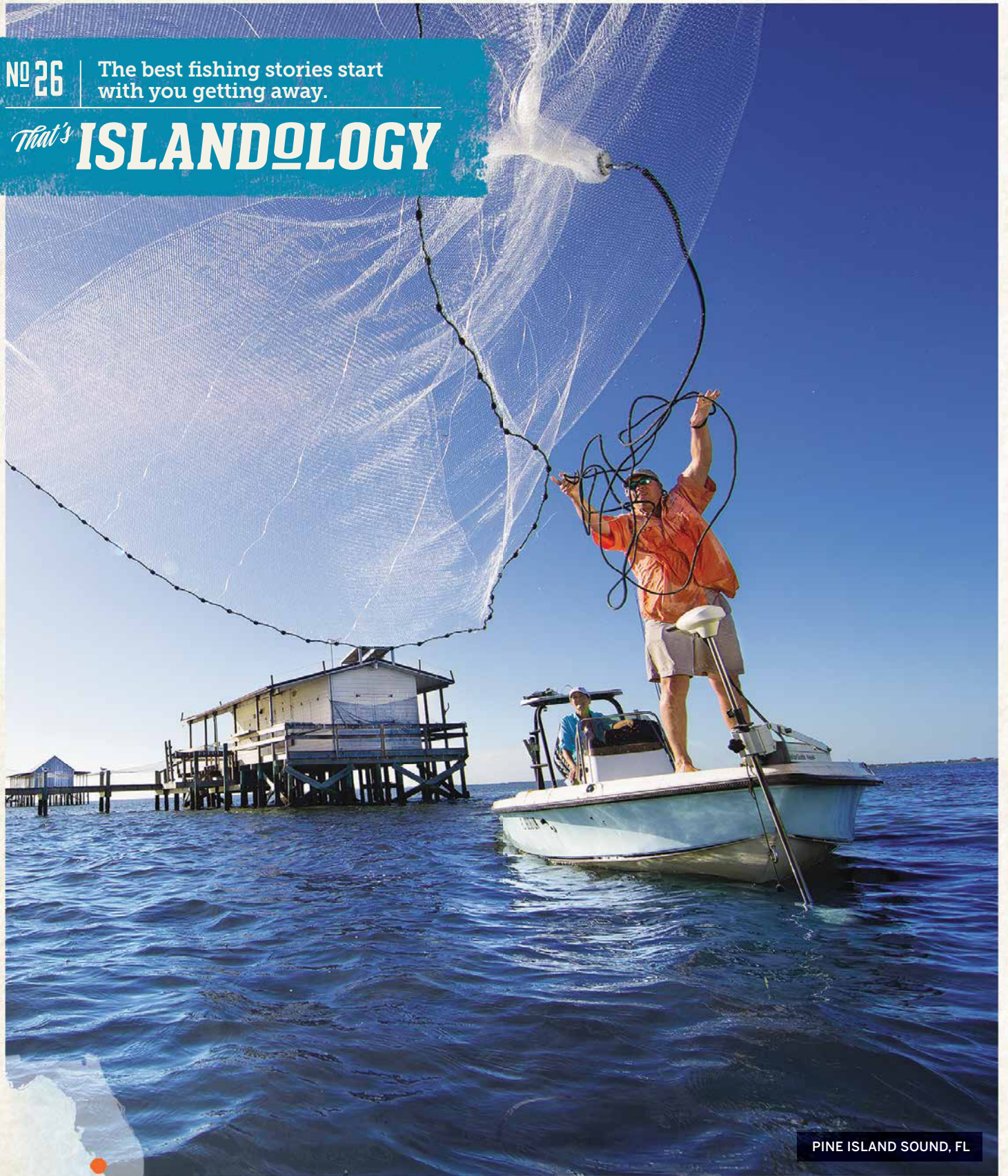


Please visit MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational for the most current regulations

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Jim Higgins

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You can obtain a license 24 hours a day at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com and begin fishing immediately!

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

Contact us

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

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

For federal fishing regulations, please contact:

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

For additional information please contact:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

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

Wildlife alert reward program

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

On the cover

"Sailfish and Sportfisher" by Florida artist Mike Savlen.
www.savlenstudios.com

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



Introduction

This publication is provided as a guide to Florida fishing laws and regulations. The Florida Administrative Code is the final authority on fishing laws. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) strives to ensure information in this booklet is accurate, but assumes no liability for any errors that occur in this publication. Contact the FWC if you have any questions on issues not covered in this booklet. A continuously updated electronic version of this publication is available at MyFWC.com/Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater" and "Recreational Regulations."

How your license fee helps

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

By purchasing a fishing license, fishing equipment and motorboat fuel, you also support the Sport Fish Restoration program, a user-pay public-benefit system that funds sport fish conservation projects.



2018 Commission meeting dates and locations

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

■ February 7–8, 2018 - Tallahassee

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

2018 Events

For more information call 850-487-0554 or visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater" and "Outreach and Education Programs."

Kids' Fishing Clinics

Crystal River – February 24
 Naples – March 10
 Daytona Beach – March 24
 Weeki Wachee – April 7
 Pensacola – May 5
 Fernandina Beach – May 12
 Cape Canaveral – June 23
 Palm Coast – July 14

Women's Fishing Clinics

Women's Fishing Clinics will be held January through June. Dates and locations were not determined at the time of this printing. For more information, contact 850-487-0554.

Adult Fishing Clinics

Adult Fishing Clinics will be held January through June. Dates and locations were not determined at the time of this printing. For more information, contact 850-487-0554.



2018 License-Free Saltwater Fishing Days!

- June 2 & 3
- Sept. 2 and Nov. 25

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About This Guide

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

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Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski



J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC is proud to print the official Florida Saltwater Fishing Regulations summary on post-consumer recycled paper.



This guide is also available online at

eRegulations.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Jessica McCawley
Division Director



Life is busy. Our days are often packed with so much to do that even finding a few minutes to enjoy fishing is hard. So, when the FWC schedules an in-person workshop in your area, sometimes, you just can't make it.

We understand.

That is why we are trying to make it easier for you to provide your comments, from webpages to virtual workshops.

Science can tell us a lot, but it can't tell us what you see and what you want.

Maybe something is happening where you fish that is unique to your region. Maybe you like to fish for a species we don't do a stock assessment on. Maybe your favorite species has been doing well for years, and then, suddenly, it's not.

Tell us about it on our new Saltwater Comments webpage at MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments.

This page is an easy way to communicate what you are seeing to staff, and it is also a great place to find out what the Division of Marine Fisheries Management is working on currently and plans to work on in the near future.

Staff have read and reviewed every one of the more than 4,000 comments submitted so far via the commenting form at the bottom of the webpage.

Want the details of an in-person workshop, but can't make it? Check out our workshops page to see if you can participate online. On-demand, virtual workshops were created last year for goliath grouper and spotted seatrout. At minimum, the Power Point presentation given at the workshop is almost always posted online for you to review.

Prefer an in-person workshop? FWC works hard to schedule workshops that are within a reasonable driving distance of areas that may be most impacted by future changes. In 2017, staff hosted an unprecedented number of in-person workshops across the state in effort to gather firsthand public input on a variety of species including snapper, cobia, goliath grouper, spotted seatrout and bay scallops.

Learn more about in-person and on-demand workshops by visiting MyFWC.com/Fishing and clicking on "Saltwater Fishing" and "Public Comments/Workshops."

Remember, Florida's recreational and commercial fishers are on the front lines day in and day out. Your input plays a huge role in how fisheries are managed. Tell us what you think.

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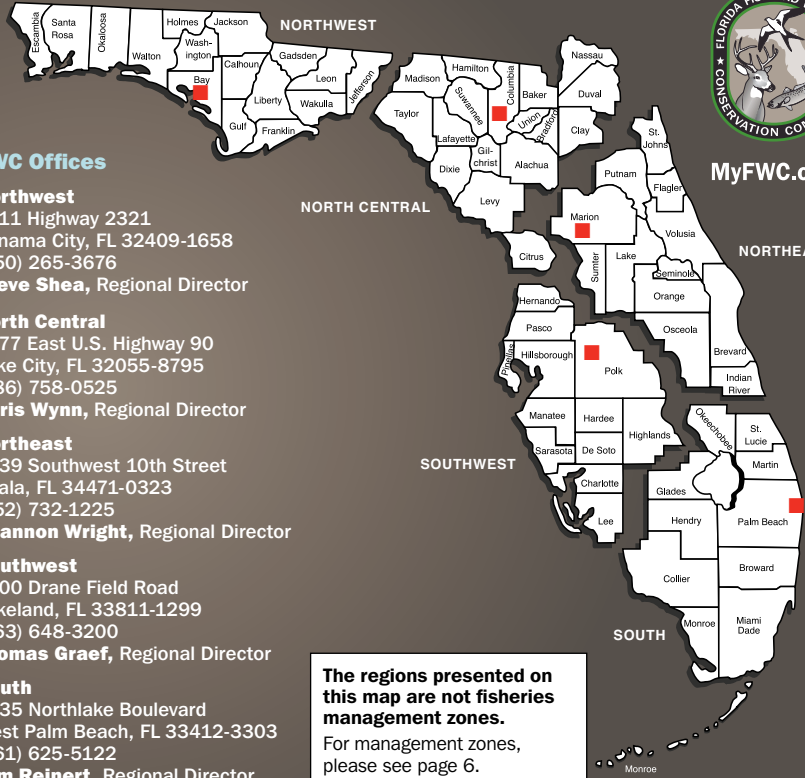
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The regions presented on this map are not fisheries management zones. For management zones, please see page 6.

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Know Your Management Zones

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

Blue Crab Trap Closures

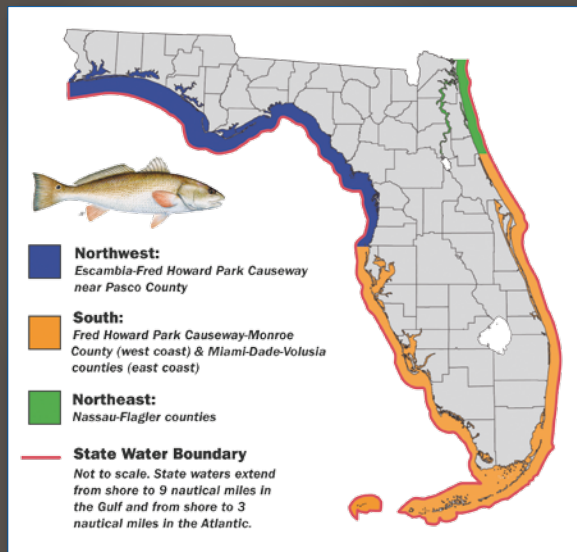
The blue crab trap closure map identifies the regions and time-frames where recreational traps must be removed from the water or tied to private property. Crabbing can continue during a trap closure period with other legal gear or with traps that are attached to private property.

For more information on trap closures please visit: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Blue-Crab.



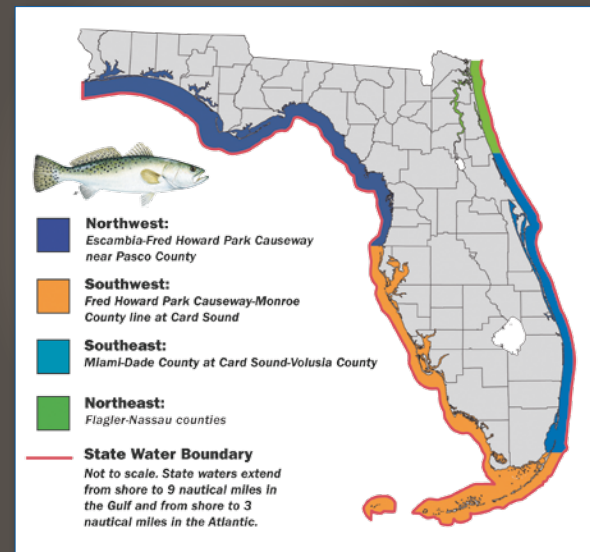
Red Drum Management Zones

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



Spotted Seatrout Management Zones

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



Hooked a Bird? Don't Cut the Line!

Even if you take precautionary steps to avoid it, you might hook a bird by accident. That's when it's important to remember — don't cut the line and let the bird fly away with it attached. This can lead to entanglement, resulting in death of that bird and possibly others as well. Instead, follow these simple steps to unhook the bird: Reel. Remove. Release.

MyFWC.com/Unhook

If you hook a bird take these steps for safe rescue and release:

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



How else can you help a seabird or wading bird?

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



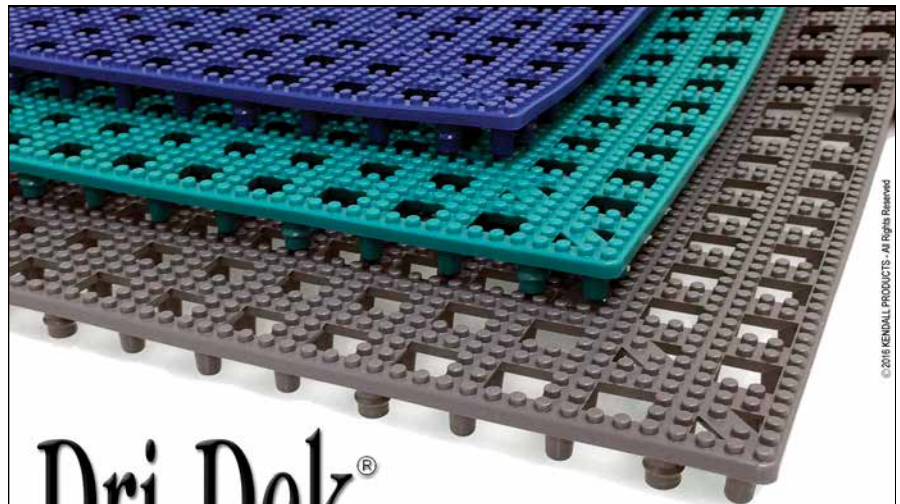
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Lionfish Challenge 2017

Another successful year!

FWC's second annual Lionfish Challenge saw more participation and brought in even more lionfish than last year's inaugural summer incentive program. A total of 26,321 lionfish were removed from Florida waters as part of the four-month challenge that started on Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day (May 20) and ended on Labor Day (Sept. 4). A total of 8,901 lionfish were removed by participants in the recreational category and another 15,800 pounds (poundage equates to about 17,420 fish) were removed by those in the commercial category.

Ken Ayers Jr. of Panama City became this year's recreational Lionfish King with a total of 1,250 lionfish harvested and submitted. Ken is a retired member of the U.S. Air Force and spent much of his summer diving for the invasive fish.

The challenge also included, for the first time, a commercial category. Captain Joshua Livingston of Destin was named Florida's first ever Commercial Champion, winning the commercial category by harvesting 4,560 pounds of lionfish (poundage equates to about 5,027 fish). Between fishing charters and commercial dive trips for other species, the owner of DreadKnot Charters still managed to remove a significant amount of lionfish.

This year's Lionfish Challenge rewarded all participants who submitted at least 25 lionfish

(25lbs. for commercial harvesters) with a Lionfish Challenge t-shirt, a commemorative coin, and the opportunity to take an additional spiny lobster each day during the two-day sport season. To encourage continued removals, divers who submitted additional lionfish had the opportunity to receive additional tiered prizes including customized neck gaiters, reusable heat packs for lionfish stings, customized Yeti tumblers, Neritic pole spears, and ZooKeeper "Lionfish Control Team" containment units.

On top of the other prizes earned throughout the Challenge, this year's winners were presented with a custom-made Fish Bone Design trophy, a "No Shoes Reefs" Engel 85 cooler, and a \$500 gift card for air tank refills.

A total of 120 recreational and commercial harvesters headed for the water and participated in this statewide lionfish removal incentive program. A special thanks to the 34 dive shops that served as checkpoints for recreational submissions and for the generous donations from sponsors like Engel Coolers, ZombieStickz, and Mote Marine Lab and Aquarium.

To see a full list of participants and prize winners from this year's Challenge, visit the Hall of Fame page at MyFWC.com/Lionfish and click on "Lionfish Challenge" and then "Hall of Fame."



Joshua Livingston



Ken Ayers Jr.

Lionfish Challenge Recreational Category

	Name	Number of Lionfish Caught
1 st place Lionfish King	Ken Ayers Jr.	1,250
2 nd place	John McCain	731
3 rd place	Dawn Richitt	650

Lionfish Challenge Commercial Category

	Name	Number of Lionfish Caught
1 st place Commercial Champion	Joshua Livingston	4,560 lbs.
2 nd place	Ron Surrency	3,811 lbs.
3 rd place	Doug Wigginn	3,054 lbs.

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Stuart, located in Martin County, is known as the Sailfish Capital of the World. Sitting on the most biodiverse estuary in the Northern Hemisphere, Martin County is home to 100 artificial reef systems and over 800 species of fish. Its climate, waterways, natural environment and opportunity for diverse catches make it a mecca for fishermen and nautical explorers year-round. An array of unique shops, fine restaurants, great golf courses and quiet beaches make a day ashore fun, too. Inshore, offshore, saltwater or fresh, head out for an adventure and reel in the memories.

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Catch-and-Release Tips

These quick and easy tips can help increase the survival rate of fish you release, so they may be caught again another day. Properly releasing any fish you do not intend to keep can also help maintain and improve fisheries for future generations.

General Fish Handling Guidelines

- Use tackle heavy enough to land a fish quickly so it is not exhausted and can avoid predators.
- Avoid removing large fish from water. If you must remove them, support their weight horizontally to prevent damage to their internal organs.
- Wet your hands before handling a fish to prevent damaging its protective slime coating. Don't use gloves or towels, as this will remove the protective slime.
- Take any pictures of your catch while it is in the water. This puts less stress on the fish.
- Revive a tired fish by holding it horizontally in the water and moving it forward with its mouth open to allow water to flow over the gills.
- Gripping devices can be effective for controlling and handling fish. Grip behind the lower lip and support the weight of the fish in a horizontal position.
- Never hold a fish by the gill cover or eyes.
- If a net is needed to land or control a fish, always use a knotless, rubber-coated landing net.
- A dehooking tool will allow you to remove hooks safely and quickly without damaging the fish.
- Use non-offset circle hooks, which tend to hook in the jaw, to reduce the change of gut-hooking a fish.
- Using barbless hooks, or hooks with the barb flattened, is one of the most important things an angler can do to minimize internal damage to fish and ease release.
- Use non-stainless steel hooks that will eventually dissolve or pass if the line must be cut due to gut-hooking a fish.
- For lures with multiple sets of treble hooks, remove a few sets of treble hooks and cut one of the three points off the remaining trebles.
- For fish caught in deep water with signs of barotrauma, use a descending device or vent the fish by inserting a sharpened hollow tube at a 45-degree angle, one inch behind the base of the pectoral fin.



Andrew Herzog reviving a snook

Tarpon Handling Guidelines

- Know tarpon regulations. Tarpon over 40 inches MUST remain in the water unless a tag is used.
- Don't tow a tarpon unless it is necessary to revive it.
- Keep the tarpon's head and gills in the water.
- Do not target them from bridges or piers – releasing tarpon from bridges or piers requires specialized lifting gear or cutting the line.
- Use proper tackle. Use barbless, single, non-offset circle hooks for natural bait. Use single hooks rather than treble hooks. Use tackle heavy enough to land the tarpon quickly, minimize exhaustion, and helping the fish avoid predators after release.
- Do not drag tarpon over the gunnel of a boat.
- Use a dehooking tool.
- Tarpon smaller than 40" should be supported horizontally when removed from the water. Tarpon larger than 40" MUST remain in the water.
- Do not fish for tarpon when large predatory sharks are in the area feeding.



Carefully handling a large tarpon

Shark Handling Guidelines

- Minimize fight time. Use Shark-Smart tackle such as:
 - » Non-stainless steel, non-offset circle hooks, which are less likely to hook vital organs, easier to remove, and more likely to rust away
 - » Hooks with the barb flattened or filed down
 - » Appropriate-sized hooks for the shark targeted
 - » Heavy tackle, a minimum of 80-pound test
- Keep sharks, especially their gills, in the water.
- NEVER bring a large shark onto a fishing vessel, a pier or bridge, or onto dry land beyond the surf zone unless you plan to harvest it.
- Minimize handling and release time and do not delay release just to take pictures.
- Do not sit on the shark's back or pull back on the snout to reveal the teeth.

- Use a long-handled dehooking device to help with hook removal.
- If you cannot safely and quickly remove the hook from the mouth, a bolt cutter may be used to cut the hook.



Safely removing a hook from a bonnethead shark

Shore Fishing Guidelines

- Keep the fish in as much water as is safely possible.
- Avoid fishing on crowded beaches or during high-traffic times of the day.
- Avoid chumming and fishing near swimmers or popular swimming areas.

Pier and Bridge Fishing Guidelines

- Most piers and bridges are high above the water, making handling and release difficult. Catch-and-release fishing is not recommended from these locations.
- Do NOT bring a large fish onto a pier or bridge. Instead, walk the large fish to the base of the bridge/pier before removing the hook (or cutting the line, if needed).
- Use a pier net to bring small fish up from the water.
- When releasing, use the pier net to lower the fish back down to the water.



Bazil Albrighton with a black drum

You can help positively impact the future of Florida's fish populations by striving for 100% survival of the fish you release! To learn more about proper catch-and-release techniques, visit MyFWC.com then click on "Fishing", "Saltwater" and "Fish Handling".





Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Issued: January 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

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.

Other Snapper ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester

Remarks

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



Snapper, Cubera ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 12" (see remarks)

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 10 per harvester 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 ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- **Gulf - Visit MyFWC.com for 2018 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, Vermilion▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Snapper, Lane ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 8"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



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 grouper in the Gulf are included in a 4 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper species.**
- Seasons - If no seasonal information is provided, the species is open year-round.

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



Grouper, Black ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Grouper, Scamp ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 20"
- Gulf - 16"

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Grouper, Snowy ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Gag Grouper ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 24"
- Gulf - 24"

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Grouper, Red ▲◆●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Other Grouper ▲◆●

Other Grouper includes:

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

Minimum Size Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth ▲◆●

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 20"

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Reef Fish

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



Amberjack, Greater ▲●X

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Visit MyFWC.com for 2018 season.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 1 per harvester



Red Porgy ▲◆◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 14"
- Gulf - None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 3 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds



Great Barracuda ▲◆◆

Regulations only apply in Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties.

Minimum Size Limits:

- Not less than 15" or more than 36"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per person or 6 per vessel
- May possess one over 36" per vessel.
- Unregulated in all other areas.

Remarks

- Unregulated in all other areas see pg. 15



Tilefish, Golden ▲◆

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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



Hogfish ▲◆

New management boundary - visit MyFWC.com for more

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 16" fork length
- Gulf - 14" fork length

Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 1 per harvester
- Gulf - 5 per harvester



Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish ▲●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic and Gulf - Cannot be less than 14" or greater than 22" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic and Gulf - 5 per person aggregate of the two species



Triggerfish (Gray) ▲●X

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 12" fork length
- Gulf - 14" fork length
- Changes pending see MyFWC.com for updates

Season:

- Atlantic - Open year-round
- Gulf - Visit MyFWC.com for 2018 season.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 10 per harvester
- Gulf - 2 per harvester
- Changes pending see MyFWC.com for updates



Black Sea Bass ▲◆◆

Minimum Size Limits:

- Atlantic - 13"
- Gulf - 10"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic - 7 per harvester
- Gulf - 100 pounds per harvester

Pelagics



Billfish ▲★

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester aggregate bag limit

Remarks

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



Wahoo ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- None

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester



Swordfish ★

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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



Cobia (Ling) ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 33" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester, not to exceed 6 per vessel
- Changes possible visit MyFWC.com for more information



Mackerel, King ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Atlantic (excluding Monroe) - 2 per harvester
- Gulf (including Monroe) - 3 per harvester

Remarks

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



Tripletail ▲★◆†

Minimum Size Limits:

- 15"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester

Remarks

- Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.



Mackerel, Spanish ▲

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester



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.



Scan this code with your mobile device to view the regulations online.

Buy your license online at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com or toll free at: 1-888-347-4356

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

Coastal Species



Bluefish ▲ ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester



Weakfish ▲ ★ ◆

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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



Black Drum ▲ ◆ T ■

Size Limits:

- Not less than 14" or more than 24"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 5 per harvester

Remarks

- May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited.



Blue Runner ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 100 fish per harvester



Snook (All species) ▲ ★ ◆ T ■

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Closed Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester

Remarks

- Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. See MyFWC.com for snook permit details. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.
- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels



Flounder ▲ ◆ T ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 10 per harvester

Remarks

- May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.



Bonefish ★ ■

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 0 per harvester

Remarks

- Catch and release only
- Hook and line only



Spotted Seatrout ● ★ ▲ ◆ T ■

Size Limits:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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



Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver

Minimum Size Limits:

- No minimum size

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Pompano, African ● ★ ▲ T ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 24" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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



Permit ● ★ ▲ T ■

Minimum Size Limits:

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

Closed Season:

- May 1-July 31 SPZ Only
- **Changes possible visit MyFWC.com for more information**

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel SPZ;
- 2 per harvester all other state waters

Remarks

- May possess 1 over 22" fork length outside the SPZ, not to exceed 2 over 22" fork per vessel per day. For map of SPZ, please see: MyFWC.com.
- Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels



Pompano, Florida ▲ ★ T ■

Minimum Size Limits:

- 11" fork length

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 6 per harvester

Remarks

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



Sheepshead ● ▲ ◆ T

Minimum Size Limits:

- 12"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 15 per harvester

Remarks

- Snatching prohibited



Tarpon ● ★ T ■

Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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



Red Drum (Redfish) ▲ ★ ◆ T

Size Limits:

- Not less than 18" or more than 27"

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 2 per harvester per day in the NE zone, and 1 per harvester in the NW and S zone. See map on p. 6
- Off the water possession limit of 6 fish

Remarks

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

★ Spearing Prohibited

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

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

■ State regulations apply in federal waters.

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

T 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.

X Gulf reef fish survey required when fishing for selected reef species from a private vessel in the Gulf of Mexico.

Crustaceans and Mollusks

Bay Scallops



Season:

Visit MyFWC.com for 2018 season.

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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

Shrimp



Closed Season:

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

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

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

Remarks

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

Spiny Lobster



Minimum Size Limit:

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

Seasons:

- Sport Season open 25-26, 2018
- Regular Season opens Aug. 6 through March 31

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- Sport Season: 6 per harvester per day in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park, 12 in all other harvest areas.
- Regular Season: 6 per harvester in all areas

Remarks

- Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny lobster permit required when license required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited.

Clams (Hard)



Minimum Size Limits:

- 1" thick across hinge

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel (whole in shell)

Remarks

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

Crab, Stone



Minimum Size Limits:

- 2¾" claw

Closed Season:

- May 16-Oct. 14

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 gal. claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less

Remarks

- 5 traps maximum. Visit MyFWC.com for statewide trap construction requirements and specific requirements that apply in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.



Crab, Blue

Closed Season:

- Regional trap closures apply. See map on page 6 or 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.**
- Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas.
- Harvest from approved shellfish areas during daylight hours only.
- Go to FloridaAquaculture.com to determine the Open or Closed status of shellfish harvesting areas.
- May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise.
- 1 Bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell)
- Harvest prohibited in any harvest area that is in the Closed status as determined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Sharks

Daily Recreational Bag Limit:

- 1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less.

Remarks

- The retainable sharks are managed as a group for bag limit purposes. In other words, you can only harvest one shark per day and the shark that you harvest must be one of the retainable species.
- Hook-and-line gear only.
- See list of prohibited species below.

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

Blue, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, shortfin mako (not illustrated).



Bull



Common Thresher



Nurse



Spinner

Retainable Sharks with no minimum size limit ▲ †



Atlantic Sharpnose



Blacknose



Blacktip



Bonnethead



Finetooth



Smooth Dogfish

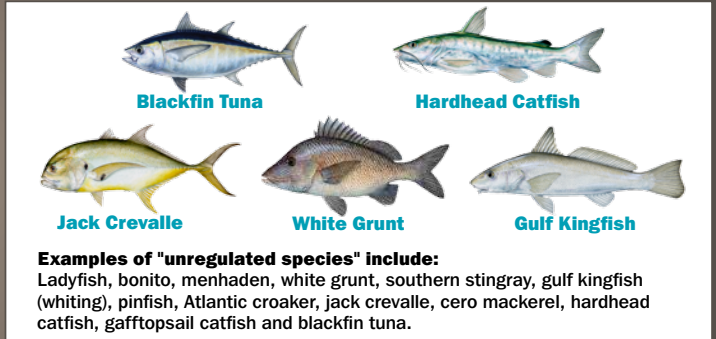
Prohibited Species

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

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

Can't find your fish in the regulations?

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

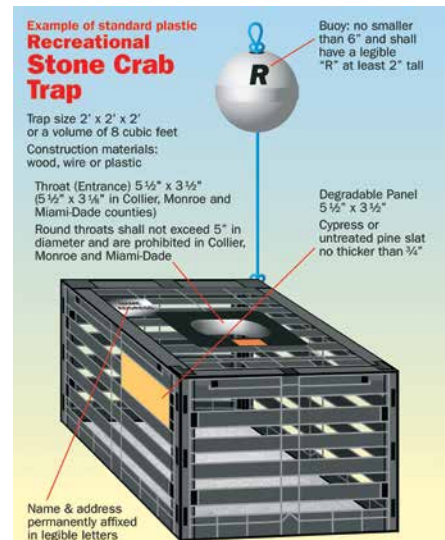
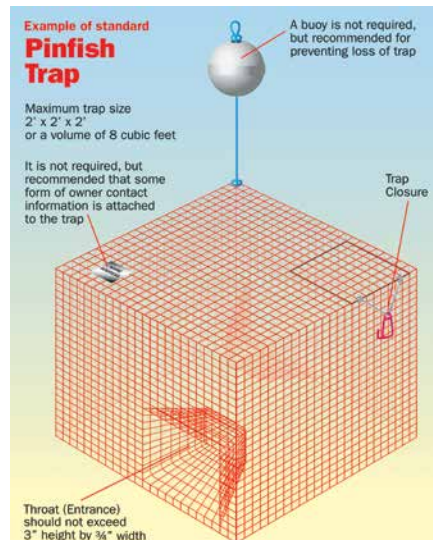
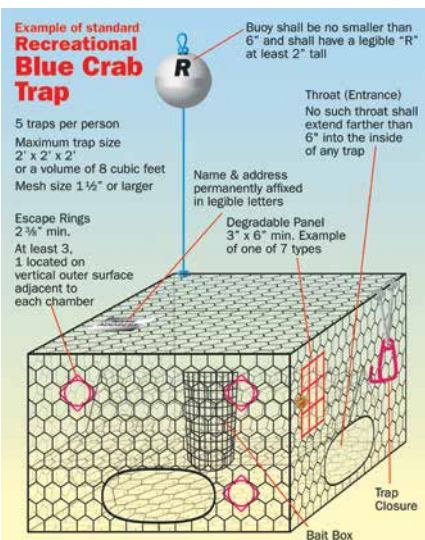
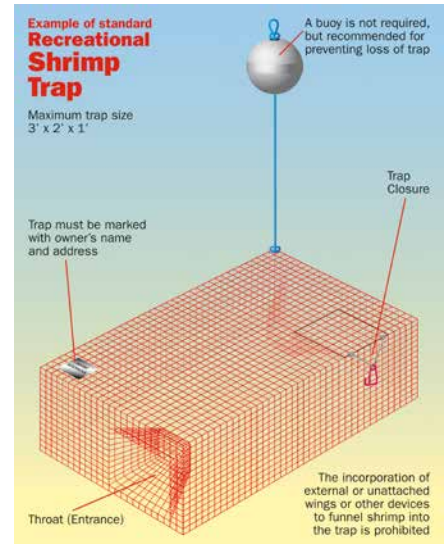


Understanding Recreational Saltwater Traps

Recreational anglers can use traps to harvest blue crabs, stone crabs, shrimp and pinfish within state waters of the Gulf or Atlantic. Each licensed (or exempt) recreational angler may fish a maximum of five blue crab traps, five stone crab traps, and four shrimp traps as long as the traps are properly designed and marked. FWC regulations do not limit the number of pinfish traps that can be used and do not require any specific marking to identify the owner of the trap. Design standards and marking requirements are provided on each illustration.

Shrimp traps cannot exceed 3' X 2' X 1' in size, cannot be equipped with external wings, must be marked with the owners name and address, and must be tended by the owner at all times while the traps are deployed. Crab traps and pinfish traps can be fished unattended.

Lost or abandoned traps can be harmful to the environment and can become a significant navigational hazard. All traps should be removed from the water when they are not being fished. Traps cannot be placed within the boundary of any marked navigational channel. For more information, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater" and "Recreational."



New Artificial Reef Locations



Florida manages one of the most diverse, and most active artificial reef programs in the United States. As of September 2017, the FWC Artificial Reef Program reports over 3,300 artificial reef deployment locations state-wide. Between May 2017 and September 2017, 73 new artificial reefs were constructed, and this table lists 40 of those 73 new artificial reefs. To download a complete list of Florida's artificial reef locations in a variety of digital formats, view on an interactive map and learn more about Florida's artificial reef program please visit MYFWC.com/ArtificialReef.

Artificial Reef Highlights

DeployID	County	Deploy Date	Deployment Name	Material	Tons	Relief	Depth	Lat (DM)	Long (DM)
BA0397	Bay	5/9/17	MB 215	10 Ecosystem Pedestal Modules	15	5	21	29° 55.895' N	85° 28.897' W
BA0404	Bay	5/9/17	MB 217	10 Ecosystem Pedestal Modules	15	5	21	29° 55.480' N	85° 28.597' W
BA0424	Bay	5/2/17	Mexico Beach CDC Reef	2 Ecosystem Pedestal Modules	3	5	20	29° 54.474' N	85° 27.836' W
BA0430	Bay	5/2/17	Billy Gillen Memorial Reef	2 Ecosystem Pedestal Modules	3	5	21	29° 54.137' N	85° 27.333' W
BA0419	Bay	4/26/17	Karl Sinclair Franz Memorial Reef	2 Ecosystem Pedestal Modules	3	5	23	29° 54.466' N	85° 28.463' W
BE0066	Brevard	7/17/17	Bernhardt Pyramids	23 Florida Limestone Modules	69	8	79	28° 21.889' N	80° 17.681' W
B00116	Broward	8/19/17	Okinawa Reef	107' Steel Tugboat, the "Okinawa"	305	33	70	26° 14.011' N	80° 04.210' W
CH0041	Charlotte	7/27/17	Palm Island Ferry Limestone	50 Reef Ball Modules & 109 Tons of Limestone Boulders	192	7	61	26° 49.184' N	82° 31.951' W
CO0119	Collier	6/27/17	Foote Family Reef - Turtle Reef	34 Florida Limestone Modules	102	8	54	26° 01.218' N	82° 06.509' W
ES0207	Escambia	9/18/17	Park West Snorkel Reef 2017	5 Reef Ball Modules	2	3	12	30° 19.672' N	87° 10.874' W
ES0200	Escambia	6/27/17	Casino Beach 2017-1	5 Modules; 1 Super Reef & 4 Florida Limestones	30	18	58	30° 18.787' N	87° 07.437' W
ES0201	Escambia	6/27/17	Casino Beach 2017-2	5 Modules; 1 Super Reef & 4 Florida Limestones	30	18	58	30° 18.798' N	87° 07.394' W
ES0202	Escambia	6/27/17	Casino Beach 2017-3	6 Modules; 1 Super Reef & 5 Florida Limestones	33	18	58	30° 18.806' N	87° 07.342' W
ES0203	Escambia	6/27/17	Casino Beach 2017-4	5 Modules; 1 Super Reef & 4 Florida Limestones	30	18	58	30° 18.814' N	87° 07.299' W
ES0204	Escambia	6/27/17	Casino Beach 2017-5	5 Modules; 1 Super Reef & 4 Florida Limestones	30	18	58	30° 18.823' N	87° 07.251' W
ES0205	Escambia	6/27/17	Casino Beach 2017-6	6 Modules; 1 Super Reef & 5 Florida Limestones	33	18	58	30° 18.754' N	87° 07.383' W
ES0206	Escambia	6/27/17	Casino Beach 2017-7	6 Modules; 2 Super Reefs & 4 Florida Limestones	48	18	58	30° 18.762' N	87° 07.333' W
IR0013	Indian River	7/18/17	Orchid Island Artificial Reef Complex	14 Florida Limestone Modules	42	8	55	27° 50.235' N	80° 21.683' W
LE0122	Lee	7/19/17	2017 East Patch	603 Tons of Concrete Culverts	603	8	45	26° 22.045' N	82° 17.121' W
LE0123	Lee	7/17/17	2017 West Patch	398 Tons of Concrete Culverts	399	10	45	26° 22.043' N	82° 17.464' W
ME0093	Manatee	6/30/17	Borden 1N-1706	969 Tons of Limestone Boulders	969	8	39	27° 24.524' N	82° 47.772' W
ME0094	Manatee	6/30/17	Borden 3S-1706	525 Tons of Limestone Boulders	526	8	40	27° 24.452' N	82° 47.795' W
DA0226	Miami-Dade	7/17/17	Key Biscayne Connection - Pile C	305 Tons of Limestone Boulders	305	8	59	25° 41.778' N	80° 05.258' W
DA0227	Miami-Dade	6/26/17	Eternal Reef #24	16 Reef Ball Modules	11	4	43	25° 57.738' N	80° 05.865' W
OK0275	Okaloosa	9/7/17	Fish Haven 15 - 2017	Concrete Targets from Eglin Air Force Base	370	11	69	30° 21.891' N	86° 42.375' W
OK0276	Okaloosa	9/5/17	Fish Haven 16 - 2017	Concrete Targets from Eglin Air Force Base	395	10	66	30° 20.891' N	86° 46.875' W
PB0101	Palm Beach	8/15/17	Andrew Harris No Shoes Reef 2017	136 Coral Head Modules & 1,000 Tons of Limestone Boulders	1,550	10	57	26° 57.859' N	80° 03.271' W
PB0100	Palm Beach	5/12/17	Flagler Bridge Material - Site 5	Flagler Bridge Material Deployed Between 6 Sites	8,938	10	70	26° 47.480' N	80° 01.079' W
ST0187	Sarasota	8/4/17	M-8 Fallen Heroes - 2017	50 Modules and 116.5 Tons of Limestone Boulders	199	5	60	27° 12.594' N	82° 48.186' W
ST0190	Sarasota	6/12/17	Silvertooth - 25	14 Modules; 10 Bay Ball & 4 Pallet Ball Modules	6	3	30	27° 17.154' N	82° 35.967' W
SL0056	St. Lucie	5/16/17	Kerry L. Dillon Memorial Reef	65' X 30' X 5' Steel Barge & 1,036 Tons of Secondary-Use Concrete	1,096	19	57	27° 32.184' N	80° 11.112' W
WL0013	Walton	8/22/17	Fish Reef	95 Ecosystem Reef Modules	128	6	17	30° 16.232' N	86° 00.360' W
WL0011	Walton	8/19/17	Seahorse Reef	78 Ecosystem Reef Modules	105	6	18	30° 21.381' N	86° 16.666' W
WL0012	Walton	8/19/17	Grayton Turtle Reef	5 Ecosystem Reef Modules	7	6	19	30° 19.331' N	86° 09.483' W
WL0010	Walton	8/16/17	Dolphin Reef	77 Ecosystem Reef Modules	104	6	20	30° 22.549' N	86° 23.306' W
WL0023	Walton	7/27/17	Fish Haven 1 Center Patch	32 Modules; 1 Super Reef, 16 Florida Limestones, & 15 Grouper	124	18	75	30° 19.323' N	86° 17.875' W
WL0024	Walton	7/27/17	Fish Haven 2 Center Patch	30 Modules; 1 Super Reef, 15 Florida Limestones, & 14 Grouper	118	18	89	30° 16.112' N	86° 13.870' W
WL0014	Walton	7/27/17	Miramar Beach Center Patch	30 Modules; 1 Super Reef, 15 Florida Limestones, & 14 Grouper	98	18	62	30° 21.874' N	86° 23.356' W
WL0015	Walton	7/27/17	Topsail Bluff Center Patch	31 Modules; 1 Super Reef, 15 Florida Limestones, & 15 Grouper	101	18	61	30° 21.373' N	86° 19.357' W
WL0016	Walton	7/27/17	Fort Panic Center Patch	32 Modules; 1 Super Reef, 16 Florida Limestones, & 15 Grouper	124	18	61	30° 20.375' N	86° 15.361' W

New options for anglers fishing in the Bahamas

Bringing fish caught in the Bahamas back to Florida by water is now easier than ever. Anglers may now transport and land filleted dolphin, wahoo and reef fish that were caught in Bahamian waters. These regulations apply to fish being transported to Florida by water only and do not apply to fish being transported or shipped by air.

Some things to keep in mind when bringing recreationally-caught dolphin, wahoo and reef fish managed as snapper-grouper back from the Bahamas by sea:

- » Skin must remain on the fillet (to aid in identification by law enforcement)
- » Anglers must comply with Atlantic federal bag and vessel limits, as well as seasons
- » Two fillets count as one fish toward the bag limit
- » Vessels must have valid Bahamian cruising and sportfishing permits
- » Passengers must possess a valid government passport with current Bahamian stamps and travel dates
- » Travel through state and federal waters must be continuous and gear must remain stowed. Fishing gear that is appropriately stowed means terminal tackle such as hooks, leaders, sinkers, etc. must be disconnected and stowed separately from the rod and reel.
- » Fish landed under these exceptions cannot be sold.



- » Bahamian regulations may be different than in U.S. state and federal waters. Before you return with your catch, make sure you comply with the more restrictive U.S. or Bahamian recreational bag and possession limits.
- » Species that are prohibited from harvest in the U.S. such as queen conch, goliath and Nassau grouper, cannot be transported back into U.S. waters by boat.
- » Spiny lobster must be in whole condition and can only be transported into U.S. waters during the recreational season (Aug. 6 through March 31).

To learn more about bringing your Bahamian catch back to Florida, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational Regulations" and "Bahamas." Federal fishing regulations are available from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at www.SAFMC.net. For more information on Bahamian regulations, visit Bahamas.gov.bs.

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Recreational gear

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

Reef fish gear rules

(applies to species marked with ● on pages 11-12)

- **Gulf of Mexico:** These regulations require the use of a dehooking device when recreationally fishing for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. All persons aboard a vessel harvesting reef fish must possess and use non-stainless steel non-offset circle hooks when using natural baits.
- **Atlantic Ocean:** Recreational and commercial fishers are required to use dehooking devices as needed while fishing for reef fish.

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

Hook-and-line gear

Hook-and-line anglers must tend their gear at all times to prevent people, marine life and shore life from becoming entangled in the line or injured by the hook. Also, it is against the

law to intentionally discard any monofilament netting or line into or onto state waters. Monofilament line can entangle birds, marine mammals, marine turtles and fish, often injuring or killing them. Trot lines with 10 or fewer hooks are considered hook-and-line gear and must be tended at all times while deployed. Species identified with "T" on pages 9 through 12 cannot be harvested with multi-hooks (single hook with two or more points) in conjunction with natural baits.

Nets

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

- Bully nets (for lobster only) no greater than 3 feet in diameter and not made of monofilament.
- Frame nets and push nets (for shrimp only) no greater than 16 feet in perimeter and not made of monofilament. Frame nets cannot be used in state waters off Dade County.
- Hand-held landing or dip nets no greater than 96 inches in perimeter.
- Cast nets measuring 14 feet or less stretched length (stretched length is defined as the distance from the horn at the center of the net with the net gathered and pulled taut, to the lead line).
- Beach or haul seines measuring no larger than 500 square feet of mesh area, no larger

than 2 inches stretched mesh size, not constructed of monofilament, and legibly marked at both ends with the harvester's name and address if a Florida resident. Non-residents using beach or haul seines for recreational purposes are required to have a commercial saltwater products license and legibly mark the seine at both ends with the harvester's saltwater products license number.

- Cast nets and seines may be used as harvesting gear for the following species only: black drum, bluefish, cobia, flounder, mullet, Florida pompano, red drum, sheepshead, shrimp, Spanish mackerel, weakfish and unregulated species (see p. 11).
- No more than two nets can be fished from any vessel and no more than one net can be fished by any person not on a vessel.

Explosives, etc.

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

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Spearfishing

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

- All prohibited species (listed on p. 11-14)
- Billfish and swordfish (all species)
- Bonefish
- Crab (blue, stone)
- Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*)
- Permit
- Pompano (Florida and African)
- Red drum
- Sharks (all species including dogfish)
- Snook
- Spotted seatrout
- Tarpon
- Tripletail
- Weakfish
- Marine life species (listed on p. 22)

* Volusia County — You may not harvest by spearfishing in Volusia County inland waters with the exception of flounder and sheepshead, and only by the use of a barbed spear with three or fewer prongs.

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

Spearfishing

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

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

fishing piers, or portions of bridges where fishing is allowed.

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

Powerheads, Bangsticks, Rebreaters

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

Anchoring Offshore?



Did you know?

It is **illegal** to anchor on/or otherwise damage coral reefs in Florida, pursuant to the Florida Coral Reef Protection Act (CRPA) of 2009.

Learn more about the CRPA by visiting <http://bit.ly/OvOmv6>.

Avoid the fines, know the reef lines!



To avoid anchoring on our coral reefs, use available free mooring buoys or sand!

Not sure where to anchor? Use the **FREE** mobile app!

Download the free mobile app "Explorer for ArcGIS" by ESRI.

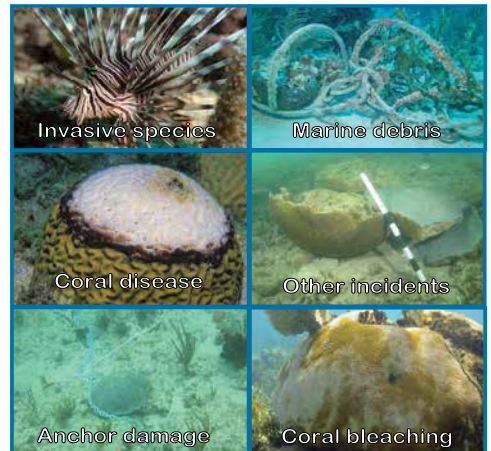
Select "Find Maps" and search for "Southeast Florida Reef Locator."

Use it to pin-point your location offshore and help find a sandy spot to anchor

See a Marine Incident?

Report it!

Call: 866-770-SEFL (7335)
or Go Online: www.SEAfan.net



Catch a Florida Memory – Saltwater Angler Recognition



Saltwater Angler Recognition

Catch a Florida Memory when you participate in one of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs. These programs entice anglers to get involved and learn more about Florida's diverse marine resources while adding to an exciting day out on the water.

Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs reward anglers for their fishing efforts, cultivate saltwater fishing interest in new anglers, enhance the experience for seasoned veterans already hooked on fishing, and support marine resource conservation. They also encourage anglers to target more than one species during fishing trips, thereby decreasing fishing pressure on any given species. Learn more and submit catches at CatchaFloridaMemory.com.

Saltwater Grand Slams

An FWC Grand Slam is catching three specified fish species in a 24-hour period. Grand Slams increase the diversity of fish species targeted on fishing trips and recognize anglers for their achievements. Successful anglers will not only be awarded a certificate, letter and t-shirt, but will also receive recognition for every three or more different Grand Slams submitted and will win a Grand Prize if all eligible slams are caught.

9 Grand Slam Categories:

- Inshore Grand Slam – red drum, spotted seatrout, flounder
- Florida Grand Slam – permit, tarpon, bonefish
- Family Grand Slam – any three fish in the same scientific family (i.e. three snapper species)
- Shoreline Grand Slam – sheepshead, kingfish (whiting), Florida pompano
- Bay & Estuary Grand Slam – mangrove (gray) snapper, snook, Spanish mackerel
- Nearshore Grand Slam – cobia, tripletail, king mackerel
- Reefs & Rubble Grand Slam – black sea bass, gag, gray triggerfish

- Blue Water Grand Slam – dolphinfish, sailfish, wahoo
- Small Fry Grand Slam – pinfish, catfish, grunt (only for ages 15 and under)

Recognition Tiers:

- 3 different Grand Slams
- 6 different Grand Slams
- All eligible Grand Slams – Grand Slam Master Angler

Saltwater Fish Life List

Similar to a birding life list, the new Saltwater Fish Life List allows anglers to track their progress at catching 71 particular species of saltwater fish. Anglers will be recognized for their achievements as they reach four levels based upon the number of different fish caught.

Recognition Tiers:

- 10 Fish Club
- 30 Fish Club
- 50 Fish Club
- 71 Fish Club – Life List Master Angler

Saltwater Reel Big Fish

This size-based program rewards anglers who catch a memorable-sized saltwater fish in 30 different species categories. To qualify, fish must be legally caught and meet or exceed a minimum qualifying length. A photo of the fish on a measuring device must be submitted, in addition to a photo of the angler with the fish. Successful anglers will not only receive a certificate, letter and t-shirt, but will also receive recognition for reaching four levels based upon the total number of different species entered into the program.

Recognition Tiers:

- 5 different species
- 10 different species
- 15 different species
- All 30 different species – Reel Big Master Angler

Florida Saltwater Fishing Records

State all-tackle records for the heaviest fishes caught in Florida waters are maintained for 76 marine species in both conventional tackle and fly fishing categories. Successful anglers will receive a certificate for their achievement, not to mention bragging rights. Catches must be made according to FWC and IGFA angling rules.

Saltwater Fish Life List Club Recipients

10 Fish Club

Katlyn M. Paul
Lewis Horn
Brooke West
Christopher K. Perry
Dawn M. Forlizzo
Fischer Hunston
Matthew Batchelor
Capt. Ken Lai
Devin S. Paul
Mike Nolan
Mason Zimmer
Katerina P. Gerlak
Rocky Santa Cruz
Patrick Marsh
Mary Muratori
Janene Evans
Robert Register

Tanya Register
Robert Tucker
Laura Willix
Jeremy M. Summers
Michael Yannick
Cameron Solomon
Michael Kolinski
Eric Anderson
Kevin Council
BJ Bueschel
Drew Serraes
James Whitaker
Brian Fimbel

30 Fish Club

Michael (Soloyaker)
Taylor
Mary Muratori

Florida Saltwater Fishing Records Recipients

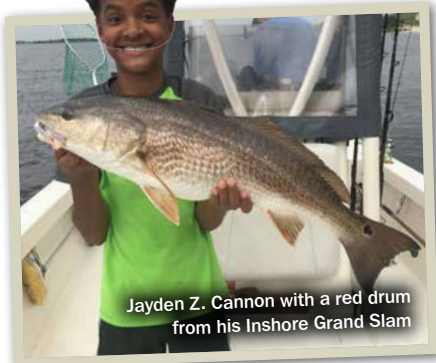
Dawn M. Delisle - Vermilion Snapper
Thomas Milliren - Almaco Jack
Sharon Kartrude Pryel - Horse-eye Jack
Raymond A. Hathorn Jr. - Gulf Kingfish (whiting)



Eszter Keresztes with a sheepshead from her Saltwater Fish Life List



Joe Yakobosky with a bonefish from his Florida Grand Slam



Jayden Z. Cannon with a red drum from his Inshore Grand Slam

Saltwater Grand Slam Club Recipients

Inshore Grand Slam:

Claire Lewis
 Danny Smith
 Anthony Watson
 Coty Eager
 Stephen Trainor
 Stephen Trainor
 Stephen Trainor
 Coty Eager
 Jonathan Allaire
 John Mobley
 Dara Blalock
 Aidan
 Melanie Flower
 William Gerspacher

Ron Little
 Scott Stillman
 Bear Williamson
 Eric J Gerlak
 Jenelle Lemieux
 Cassandra Thompson
 Scott Harvey
 Matthew Fekkers
 Nathan Gibson
 Justin Bowden
 Crystal Selover

Thomas Milliren
 Justin Blalock
 Snapper John
 Bob Horne
 Gavin Hart
 Drew Serraes

Florida Grand Slam:

Chris Ringlsetter
 R. A. Mike Maxwell
 Christopher Rowell

Small Fry Grand Slam:

Kiley Crouch
 Garrett Crouch
 Drew Serraes

Family Grand Slam:

Eric J Gerlak
 William S. Davidson Jr

Monthly Raffle Drawings

Successful Catch a Florida Memory participants are automatically entered into monthly raffle drawings held by the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida for each verified program submission made. Winners are randomly selected and prizes include landing nets courtesy of McLean Angling, rods and reels courtesy of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, fillet knives courtesy of Smith's Consumer Products, fishing gear courtesy of Live to Fish, and fish art courtesy of Fish Print Shop.

Program Requirements

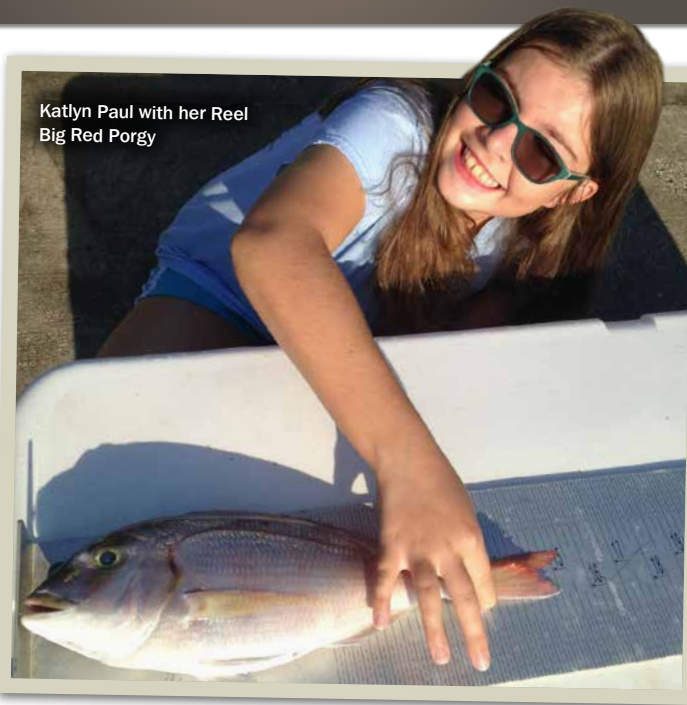
- All submitted fish must have been caught by the angler applying for recognition.
- Anglers must follow Florida saltwater recreational fishing regulations.
- Fish do not have to be harvested and we encourage catch-and-release fishing.
- Anglers must submit photographs of themselves with each fish.
- Use proper fish handling techniques to minimize stress on fish. Learn more at MyFWC.com/Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater," "Recreational" and "Fish Handling."

Partnerships

Contributions from our generous partners help provide recognition and prizes for program participants. We gratefully acknowledge our partners: McLean Angling, Smith's Consumer Products, Live to Fish, Tony Ivory Art and Apparel, Warbird Fishing Gear, Ocean Waves Sunglasses, Fish Print Shop, Martin County, the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, and the International Game Fish Association. To become a partner, visit CatchaFloridaMemory.com/Partners or contact AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com.

Connect with Us

For more information on FWC's Saltwater Angler Recognition Programs and to submit catches, visit CatchaFloridaMemory.com. Like and follow us on Facebook.com/CatchaFLMemory to view angler photos and get updates on the latest submissions. View fishing how-to videos and more on our FWC Saltwater Fishing YouTube channel @MyFWC.com/Saltwaterfishing.



Katlyn Paul with her Reel Big Red Porgy

Saltwater Reel Big Fish Club Recipients

Red Drum

Nicholas Odle
 Gary Gunter
 Patrick Marsh
 Landon Hall
 John "Whit" Whitaker
 Eric Anderson
 Eric Anderson
 Lucas Williams
 Karen Shane
 Austin Corn

Spotted Seatrout

Richard Watkins
 Stephen Stubbs
 Charles Stubbs

Joel Abo
 Roy Magnuson

Snook

John H. Dobbins
 Dale Ash
 Kevin Burkhead Jr.
 Joshua D Irwin
 Ethan Sonnenberg
 Daniel Gibbs
 Patrick Marsh
 John Wilmoth

Spanish Mackerel

Ethan Sonnenberg

Red Porgy

Katlyn M. Paul

Flounder

Nicholas Odle
 Landon Hall

Gray Triggerfish

Katlyn M. Paul

Mutton Snapper

Kevin Yulkowski
 Roger A. Grimes
 Tricia Grimes

Marine life regulations


Requirements for marine life (aquarium species) harvest:

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

* Some organisms have additional gear limitations, see chart.

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

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



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Marine Life — Fish

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹	SIZE LIMITS (total length unless otherwise noted)
Angelfish	No more than 5 per person per day in any combination	Gray, French Angelfish: 1½–8" slot limit Blue, Queen Angelfish: 1¾–8" slot limit Rock Beauty: 2–5" slot limit
Butterflyfish		1–4" slot limit
Filefish/Triggerfish	Except Unicorn Filefish, Gray Triggerfish and Ocean Triggerfish	
Gobies		Maximum size limit: 2"
Hamlets/Seabasses	Except reef fish ² and Longtail Bass	
Jawfish		Maximum size limit: 4"
Parrotfish		Maximum size limit: 12"
Porkfish		Minimum size limit: 1½"
Pufferfish, Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	Includes Sharpnose Pufferfish, Striped Burrfish, Spotted Burrfish, Balloonfish, Porcupinefish	
Tangs and Surgeonfish		Maximum size limit (fork length): 9"
Wrasse/Hogfish/Razorfish	Except Hogfish Snapper	Spanish Hogfish: 2–8" slot limit Cuban Hogfish: 3–8" slot limit

Other Marine Life fish include¹: Basslets, Batfish, Blackbar Soldierfish, Blennies, Brotulas (Black and Key), Cardinalfish, Clingfish, Cometfish, Damselfish, Eels (Moray and Snake), Frogfish, Hawkfish, High-hat/Jackknife-fish/Spotted Drum/Cubbyu, Pipefish, Reef Croakers, Seahorses, Sleepers, Yellow Stingray, Sweepers, Toadfish, Trumpetfish and Trunkfish/Cowfish.

Marine Life — Invertebrates

SPECIES	REMARKS ¹
Anemones	Corallimorphs and Zoanthids: No more than 5 polyps of each may be landed per person per day, must be harvested with a flexible blade no wider than 2". Corallimorphs must be harvested as single polyps only. Zero bag limit on Giant Anemone (<i>Condylactis gigantea</i>).
Conch, Queen	Harvest prohibited
Corals: Hard, stony, fire & black	Harvest prohibited
Octocorals	No more than 6 octocoral colonies per person per day in any combination; harvest of attached substrate within 1" of base is permitted; harvest closes when quota met.
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs
Crab, Horseshoe	Harvest prohibited
Live Rock	Harvest prohibited
Octopods³	Except Common Octopus
Sea Fans	Harvest of Venus Sea Fan and Common (Purple) Sea Fan prohibited
Siphonophores/Hydroids	Harvest of Fire Coral prohibited
Sponges	Except Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef and Velvet Sponges; no more than 5 sponges per harvester per day in any combination; harvest of substrate within 1" of base permitted north and west of the southernmost point of Egmont Key, no substrate allowed south of Egmont Key
Starfish³	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins³	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

Other Marine Life invertebrates include¹: Brittlestars³, Decorator (Furcate Spider) Crab, False Arrow Crab, Green Clinging (Emerald) Crab, Nimble Spray (Urchin) Crab, Red Mithrax Crab, Red-Ridged Clinging Crab, Spotted Porcelain Crab, Yellowline Arrow Crab, Fileclams³, Upside-down Jellyfish, Nudibranchs/Sea Slugs³, Sea Cucumbers³, Sea Lilies, Cleaner/Peppermint Shrimp, Coral Shrimp, Snapping Shrimp, Nassarius Snails³, Starsnails³, Featherduster Worms and Calcareous Tube Worms.

Marine Life — Plants

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

- 1—Unless otherwise noted, combined bag limit of 20 marine life fish and invertebrates per person per day, only 5 of any one species allowed. A 2-day possession limit also applies (40 total organisms, only 10 of any one species).
- 2—Such as groupers, snappers, seabass and amberjacks. Must abide by regulations for these species on pages 9–10.
- 3—Bag limit of 2 live shells of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.

How to Recycle Your Fishing Line

Fishing is one of Florida's signature pastimes. However, fishing line and other tackle can cause problems when they enter Florida's aquatic environment.

Monofilament is the most common type of fishing line and is not biodegradable, lasting up to 600 years depending on environmental conditions. Because it is thin and often clear, it is very difficult for birds and animals to see. This can lead to them easily becoming entangled, resulting in different types of injuries.

You can do your part to help prevent these issues by avoiding snags and properly disposing of used fishing line through our Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program (MRRP).

MRRP is an innovative statewide project dedicated to reducing damage caused by monofilament and fluorocarbon fishing line through cleanup events and a network of recycling bins and drop-off locations.

Place your used monofilament or fluorocarbon in one of the PVC MRRP bins found at many boat ramps and piers. These bins are monitored regularly by individuals or organizations that have adopted them. Many tackle shops also act as convenient line recycling drop off locations.

Once the monofilament and fluorocarbon is collected from recycling bins and cleaned by volunteers, it is then shipped to the Berkley Pure Fishing company in Iowa. Berkley melts the line down into plastic pellets that are made into other products such as tackle boxes, spools for line, and fish habitats.

Disposing of Non-monofilament Line and Tackle

To discard non-monofilament line, such as braid or wire, cut the line into 12-inch or smaller pieces and place into a covered trash receptacle. Line placed in trash receptacles without lids can blow out into the environment and entangle wildlife. When disposing of tackle such as hooks and lures, it is important to clip off sharp points to avoid injuring humans and wildlife. As part of the "Pitch It" campaign, soft plastic baits with the hook or jig head removed can be discarded in special program containers that are separate from monofilament recycling bins. Learn more about soft bait disposal and the "Pitch It" campaign by visiting Pledgetopitchit.org.

Visit MRRP.MyFWC.com or email Marine@MyFWC.com for more information on how to:

- Build your own Monofilament Recycling Bin
- Adopt a Monofilament Recycling Bin
- Volunteer at a local cleanup or host your own
- Educate others about the importance of fishing line recycling



The FWC's Division of Law Enforcement patrols Florida's coastal waters to provide assistance to boaters and anglers as well as to enforce Florida's saltwater fishing and boating laws. FWC officers assist boaters who are in distress, provide advice and direction to those who are traveling Florida's coastline and waterways, and may issue citations for violations of state and federal fishing, wildlife and boating laws.

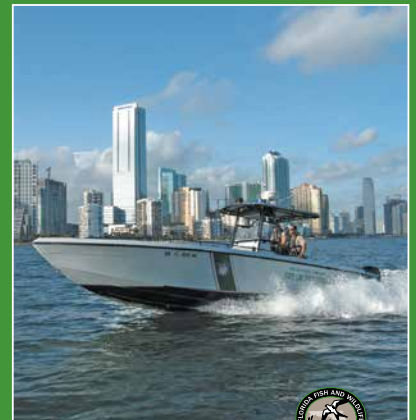
In emergencies or if state fisheries, wildlife or boating laws are being violated, call 888-404-FWCC (3922) or for cell phone users throughout the state, dial *FWC (*392) depending on your location, hail on VHF Channel 16 or report violations via text message. Most cell phones allow users to send text messages directly to an email address. You can text Tip@MyFWC.com; standard usage fees may apply.

Resource Information

Join the nation's largest conservation law enforcement agency—become an FWC law enforcement officer. For more information contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-866-FWC-HIRE (392-4473) or visit MyFWC.com/Law

- **To purchase fishing licenses:**
888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)
GoOutdoorsFlorida.com
- **FWC Division of Law Enforcement**
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **To report fish and wildlife law violations, call the Wildlife Alert Hotline:**
888-404-FWCC (3922)
- **FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute**
727-896-8626
MyFWC.com/Research
- **To report fish kills:**
800-636-0511
- **To report fish tags:**
800-367-4461
TagReturn@MyFWC.com
- **To report sawfish sightings:**
941-255-7403
sawfish@MyFWC.com
- **Bird entanglement**
888-404-3922
727-391-6211 for Tampa area
- **Red tide information hotline**
866-300-9399 toll free in Florida
727-552-2488 nationwide
- **Aquatic toxins hotline:** 888-232-8635
- **Shellfish harvesting questions**
FDACS, 850-488-5471
www.floridaaquaculture.com
- **To report lionfish sightings:**
1-877-786-7267
MyFWC.com/Lionfish

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Costs for licenses

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

Florida resident licenses

One-Year Saltwater Shoreline Only License	\$0.00
Covers saltwater fishing from shorelines and attached structures. Does not cover fishing from a watercraft, fishing from a shoreline reached by watercraft, or fishing while swimming or diving.	
One-Year Saltwater License	\$17.00
Covers both watercraft and shoreline fishing	
Youth Saltwater Fishing License — valid until 17th birthday	\$17.00
Five-Year Saltwater License	\$79.00
Combination licenses (Florida residents only)	
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater	\$32.50
Fishing-Saltwater/Freshwater & Hunting	\$48.00
One-Year Gold Sportsman's License	\$100.00
Five-Year Gold Sportsman's License	\$494.00
Youth Gold Sportsman's License — valid until 17th birthday	\$100.00
One-Year Military Gold Sportsman's License	\$20.00

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

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

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

Non-resident licenses

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

Permits

Snook Permit	\$10.00
Five-Year Snook Permit (Florida residents only)	\$50.00
Spiny Lobster Permit	\$5.00
Five-Year Spiny Lobster Permit (Florida residents only)	\$25.00
Tarpon Tag (available only at tax collector offices)	\$51.50

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

Saltwater fishing in Florida...

What you must know before you go

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

Florida residents

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

- Any person who has declared Florida as his or her only state of residence as evidenced by a valid Florida driver license or identification card with both a Florida address and a Florida residency verified by the Department of Highway Safety; or
- Any member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in Florida (includes spouse and dependent children residing in the household).

Gold sportsman's licenses

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

spiny lobster, which would otherwise require a separate fee. A lifetime sportsman license allows holders to fish in freshwater or saltwater and to hunt in Florida. Both of the licenses require holders to obey fishing or hunting laws in effect at any given time.

You do not need a license if you are:

- A resident who is saltwater fishing from land or a structure fixed to land who has been determined eligible for the food stamp, temporary cash assistance, or Medicaid Program by the Department of Children and Family Services. Proof of identification and a benefit issuance or program identification card issued by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities or the Agency for Health Care Administration must be on your person when fishing.
- A child under 16 years of age.
- Any resident fishing for recreational purposes only, within her or his county of residence with live or natural bait, using poles or lines not equipped with a fishing line retrieval mechanism.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel—guide, charter, party boat—that has a valid charter boat license or charter captain license.
- A holder of a valid saltwater products license.
- A Florida resident 65 years of age or older and you possess proof of age and residency, such as a Florida driver's license or ID, or an optional no-cost Resident Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing Certificate.
- A Florida resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, who is not stationed in this state, while on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders. This does not include family members.
- Any person fishing who has been accepted as a client for developmental disabilities

services by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, provided the agency furnishes proof thereof.

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

Other saltwater fishing fees

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

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

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



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