

Federal Fishing Regulations

[FishRules](#) is the best way to view fishing regulations from a mobile device.





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In each section, click on a species image for detailed information about that species.







Note: * subject to in-season closure if landings are projected to reach the quota

Species	Recreational Regulations			
Snappers	Season	Size	Bag Limit	Aggregate
 Red Snapper	Federally permitted for-hire season: Closed Private recreational season: Closed* *Determined by each Gulf State	16 TL * * Determined by each Gulf State	2 per person * * Determined by each Gulf State	
 Gray (Mangrove) Snapper	Open year-round	12 TL		10 snapper combined total

 Mutton Snapper	Open year-round	18 TL	5 per person	10 snapper combined total
 Yellowtail Snapper	Open year-round	12 TL		10 snapper combined total
 Cubera Snapper	Open year-round	12 TL		10 snapper combined total
 Queen Snapper	Open year-round			10 snapper combined total
 Blackfin Snapper	Open year-round			10 snapper combined total
 Wenchman Snapper	Open year-round			10 snapper combined total
 Silk Snapper	Open year-round			10 snapper combined total
 Vermilion Snapper	Open year-round *	10 TL	10 per person	20 reef fish combined total
 Lane Snapper	Open year-round	8 TL		20 reef fish combined total
Groupers	Season	Size	Bag Limit	Aggregate
 Gag Grouper	Closed January – May Open June – December *	24 TL	2 per person	4 grouper combined total

 Red Grouper	Open year-round * Closed February – March when fishing beyond 20 fathom break	20 TL	2 per person	4 grouper combined total
 Black Grouper	Open year-round * Closed February – March when fishing beyond 20 fathom break	24 TL		4 grouper combined total
 Yellowfin Grouper	Open year-round Closed February – March when fishing beyond 20 fathom break	20 TL		4 grouper combined total
 Scamp Grouper	Open year-round Closed February – March when fishing beyond 20 fathom break	16 TL		4 grouper combined total
 Yellowmouth Grouper	Open year-round Closed February – March when fishing beyond 20 fathom break			4 grouper combined total
 Yellowedge Grouper	Open year-round			4 grouper combined total
 Snowy Grouper	Open year-round			4 grouper combined total
 Speckled Hind Grouper	Open year-round		1 per vessel	4 grouper combined total
 Warsaw Grouper	Open year-round		1 per vessel	4 grouper combined total
 Goliath Grouper	CLOSED		Harvest Prohibited	

 Nassau Grouper	CLOSED		Harvest Prohibited	
Other Reef Fish	Season	Size	Bag Limit	Aggregate
 Golden Tilefish	Open year-round			20 reef fish combined total
 Blueline Tilefish	Open year-round			20 reef fish combined total
 Goldface Tilefish	Open year-round			20 reef fish combined total
 Gray Triggerfish	Closed January – February Open March – May * Closed June – July Open August *	15 FL	1 per person	20 reef fish combined total
 Hogfish	Open year-round Hogfish Management Area	14 FL	5 per person	
 Greater Amberjack	Closed January – April Open May * Closed June – July Open August – October * Closed November – December *Recreational fishing year begins August 1	34 FL	1 per person	
 Lesser Amberjack	Open year-round	14 -22 FL		5 fish combined total
 Banded Rudderfish	Open year-round	14 -22 FL		5 fish combined total

 <u>Almaco Jack</u>	Open year-round			20 reef fish combined total
Coastal Migratory Pelagics	Season	Size	Bag Limit	
 <u>Cobia (ling)</u>	Open year-round	36 FL	2 per person	
 <u>Spanish Mackerel</u>	Open year-round	12 FL	15 per person	
 <u>King Mackerel</u>	Open year-round	24 FL	3 per person	
Shellfish	Season	Size	Bag Limit	
 <u>Spiny Lobster</u>	Open January – March Closed April 1 – August 5 Open off Florida for 2 day mini-season the last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July . Open August 6 – December	3 minimum carapace	6 per person	
Other	Season	Size	Bag Limit	
 Red Drum	Closed		Harvest Prohibited	
Coral and Other Species				
Live Rock	Harvest or possession of wild live rock is prohibited. Harvest and possession of aquacultured live rock requires a permit.			
Other Marine Life Organisms	Marine life organisms from the EEZ harvested or possessed by Florida residents or landed in Florida are subject to Florida's Marine Life Rule. Contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for more information 850-488-4676.			
Highly Migratory Species				
Tunas, Billfish, Swordfish, Sharks	For Highly Migratory Species Compliance Guide Visit: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-fishery-compliance-guides Contact the HMS Division of NOAA Fisheries for more information: 301-427-8503			

Federal Fishing Regulations are not always the same as state fishing regulations. For species that are not managed by federal regulations, states have the authority to extend state rules into federal waters for residents of that state or vessels landing a catch in that state.