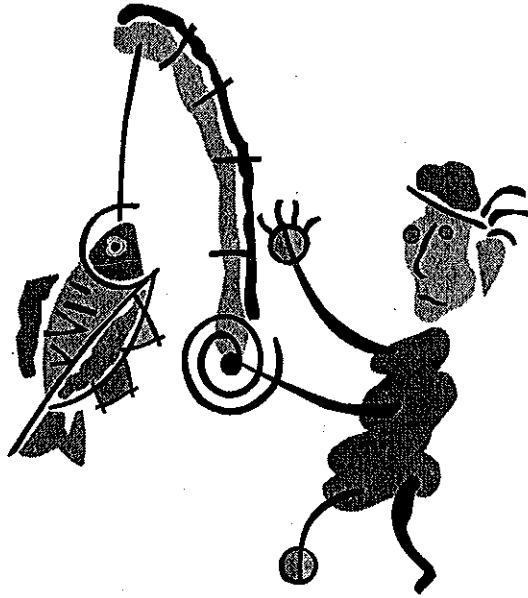


Catch & Release?

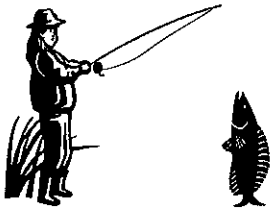


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Goals, Objectives, & Florida Sunshine State Standards



Goals:

- Students will understand the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth.
- Students will know the positive and negative consequences of human action on Earth's systems.
- Students will understand that humans are part of an ecosystem and that their activities may deliberately or inadvertently alter the equilibrium in ecosystems.

Objectives:

- Identify various species of Florida saltwater and freshwater fish and the impact of the human population on these species.
- Practice, through hands on activity, a mock fishing trip, identifying the fish, the time of year (season) and the size of each "Catch".
- Determine if the "Catch" is legal to keep using the Florida Fishing Regulations.
- Discuss why the fishing regulations are in place; why we have seasons, bag limits, and size restrictions.

Florida Sunshine Standards:

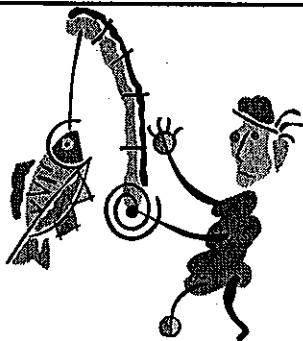
- **SC.D.2** (Processes that shape the earth) - The student understands the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth.
- **SC.F.1** (Processes of life) - The student understands the process and importance of genetic diversity.
- **SG.G.1** (How living things interact with their environment) – The student understands the consequences of using limited natural resources.
- **SC.H.3** (The nature of science) – The student understands that science; technology and society are interwoven and interdependent.

Overview

Catch and Release? is a classroom activity designed to teach students the importance of having fishing regulations in place. It also teaches student the importance of marine conservation; that fish have different growth and breeding seasons and cycles. It also teaches students how to extract information from reference guides Florida Fish and Wildlife's *Florida Saltwater Fishing Regulations Guide*.

Students will participate in a classroom (simulated) fishing activity and determine if different species of fish are within the regulations to keep or to release back to the water. The marine and freshwater ecosystems support a diverse and wide variety of fish that we appreciate as consumers. The increasing human population along our coastal shores and lakes, rivers, and wetlands along with our associated behaviors, especially fishing, has become an important factor that affects the marine and freshwater fish populations.

Catch and Release ?



Lesson Module on Florida Fishing Rules and Regulations

Subjects

Science: Environmental Science, Biology, Marine Biology, Earth Science

Target Audience: Grades 6-12

Brief Description of Lesson

Students will determine if different species of fish that are 'caught' would be released or allowed to be kept. Students will recognize the diversity of marine and freshwater fish species. They will also gain a respect for the importance of the Rules and Regulations in regard to marine conservation.

Objectives:

- Identify various species of Florida saltwater and freshwater fish and the impact of the human population on these species.
- Practice, through hands on activity, a mock fishing trip, identifying the fish, the time of year (season) and the size of each "Catch".
- Determine if the "Catch" is legal to keep using the Florida Fishing Regulations.
- Discuss why the fishing regulations are in place; why we have seasons, bag limits, and size restrictions.

Materials

Fishing pole (x1) – a long stick or yardstick will suffice

*String tied to end of pole (3 or 4 feet long)

*Magnet tied to other end of string . This is what will ‘catch’ the fish.

Fish Cutouts (x20 or one per student is enough) - shape should match the labeling (Date caught, length, type of fish)

*Paperclip taped to the mouth of each fish cutout

Procedure

1. The activity will begin by having students together by arranging their seats/desks in a circle around a center.

2. Distribute a copy of the Fishing Regulations handout to each student.

3. A “Fishpond” is placed at the center of the ring of seats. A bucket, large pan, or bowl can be used to simulate the fishpond.

4. One student will act as a fisherman, although it is more fun for the students if they can each get a turn. The fisherman holds a, “Fishing pole” fashioned out of long stick or pole (even a yard stick can be used) with a line/thread/string tied to the tip at one end, and a magnet at the other end of the string. See Diagram 1.

5. The fisherman dips the magnet into the fishing pond and swirls/swishes it around until the magnet catches paperclip attached to a fishes mouth.

6. The fish is extracted by the student and he/she reads aloud the information on the side of the fish. This includes the type of fish, the date caught, the length, and the location.

7. The other students research the Regulations handout and determine whether the fish can be kept or needs to be released.

*Note: Do not put the fish back into the pond once it has been caught, or it may keep getting caught over and over.

Assessment

Students will demonstrate their ability to synthesize and extract information from the Fishing Regulation Charts.

Students will write an essay on the importance of knowing and following the Florida Fishing Rules and Regulations. They should tie this in with why the Rules and Regulations are important to Marine Conservation efforts.

RESOURCES

www.myfwc.com – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website. The source of Florida's fishing rules and regulations.

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/fish/freshwater-fish/> - Fish identification Charts

<http://www.fishamerica.org/> - Site designed to help keep our fish and waters healthy

<http://www.nbii.gov/far/nfhap/> - Interactive maps of Fish Habitat Degradation for Coastal Areas

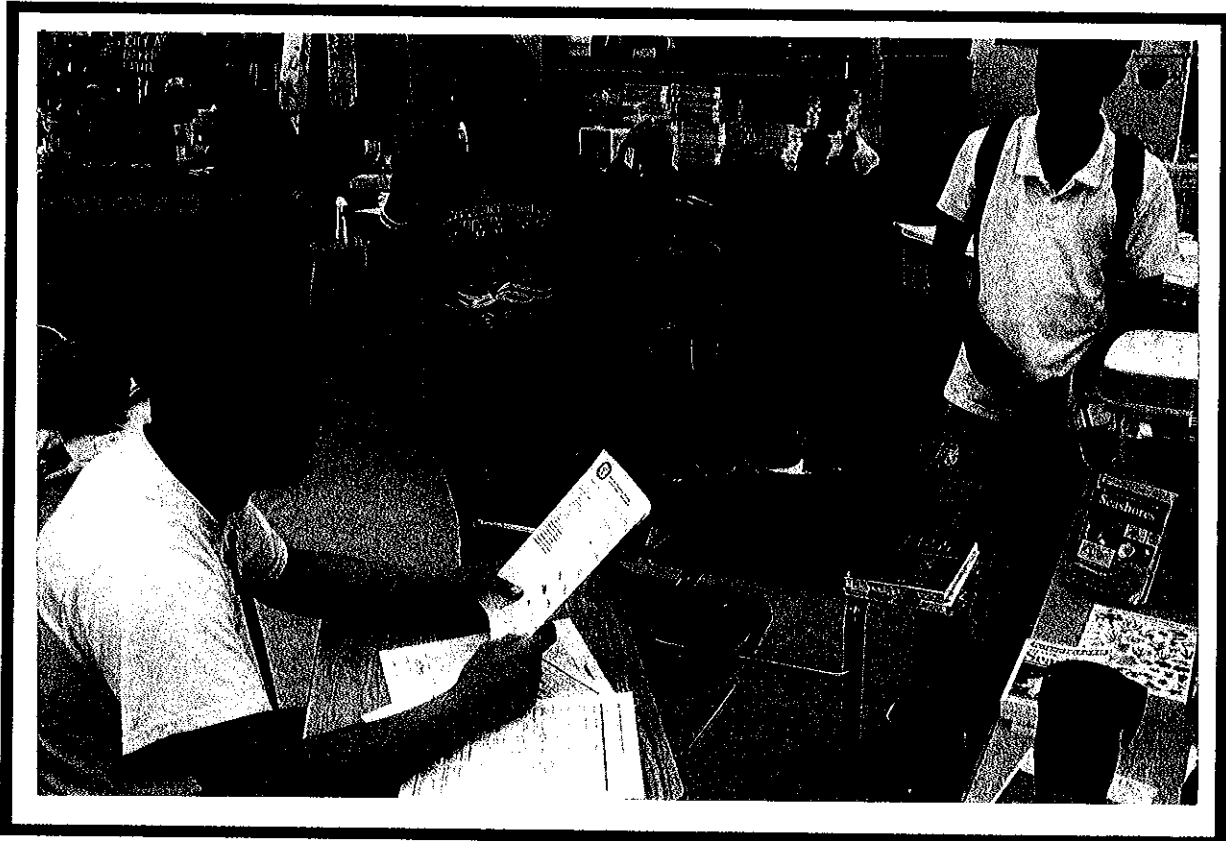
<http://www.fishsanibel.com/fish/> - Common Fish of Florida website. Click on the fish name or family to get loads of information on individual species including physical description, range of occurrence, pictures, and more.

<http://www.takemefishing.org/fishing/fishopedia/fishing-and-conservation/respecting-the-resource> - A website titled Respecting the Resource. This site informs you how to report violators, participation in enhancement projects, and more.

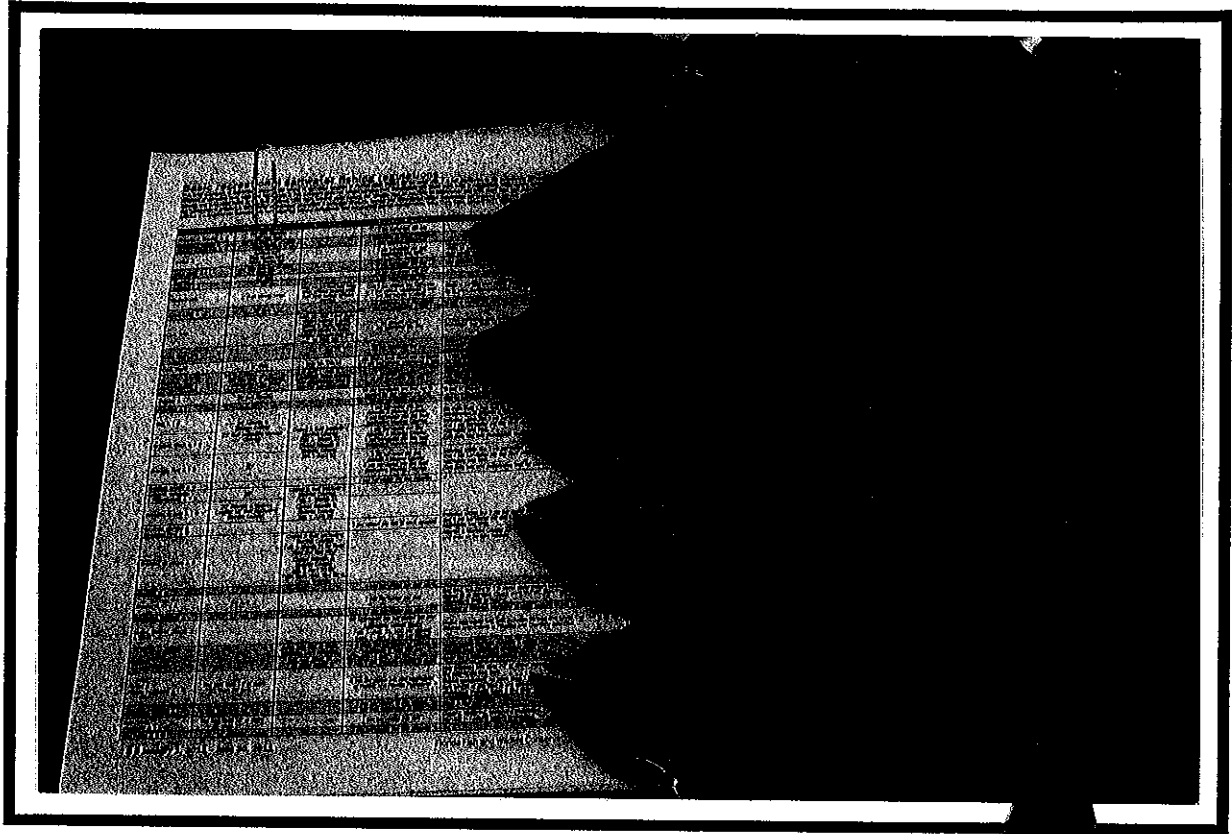
Student fishing in pond



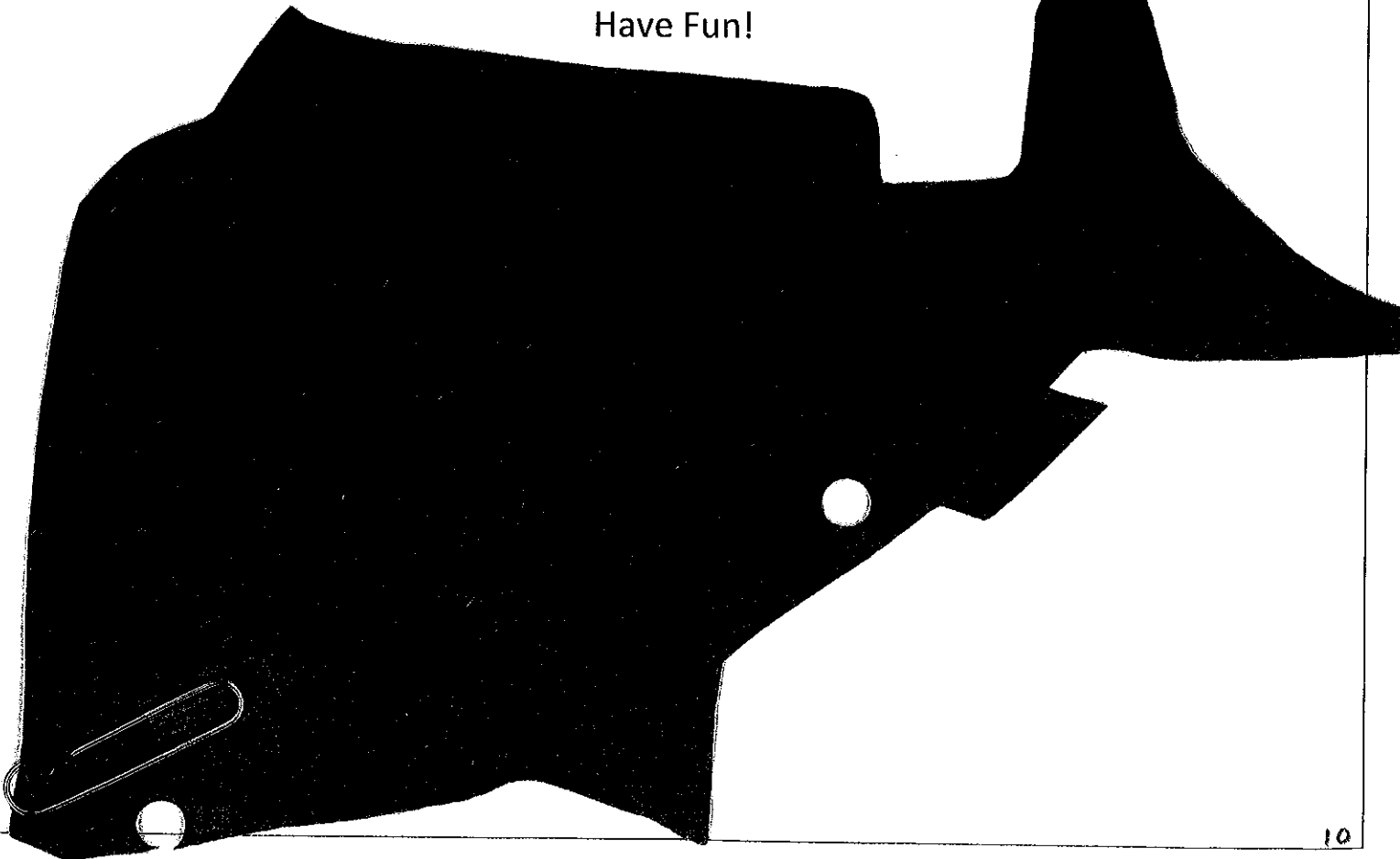
Student catches a fish and reads the information
printed on the fish to the class



Examples of fish cutouts and Florida Fishing Regulations (Fish cutouts can be cut out in different shapes to match each species). Don't forget to tape a paper clip to the mouth of each fish or the magnet won't catch it!



Have Fun!



FLORIDA SALTWATER RECREATIONAL 2011

FISHING REGULATIONS

Valid from July 1, 2011 – Dec. 31, 2011

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

Buy your license online!

When you buy your license online, it's fast, convenient and saves time and travel.

You can obtain a license 24 hours a day at MyFWC.com/LICENSE 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.

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. For more information, see page 2.

Regional offices	2
Division of Law Enforcement (DLE)	2
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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
850-488-6058




Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com/Fishing

Basic recreational saltwater fishing regulations

This brief summary of regulations governs the taking of saltwater species in Florida state waters for personal use. It is not applicable to the commercial harvesting of these species. The absence of complete laws, rules and regulations in this summary does not relieve persons from compliance with those laws, rules or regulations. State waters extend to 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic and 9 nautical miles on the Gulf. Federal rules apply beyond state waters unless expressly stated otherwise. For species that do not have an established bag limit, more than 100 pounds or two fish per harvester per day (whichever is greater), is considered commercial quantities. A saltwater products license and commercial vessel registration are required to harvest commercial quantities of unregulated species. It is illegal to sell recreationally harvested fish without compliance with commercial license requirements. Issue Thirty Nine, July 2011. Highlights indicate recent regulation changes.

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Rec. Bag Limit	Remarks
Amberjack, Greater	28" fork Atlantic; 30" fork Gulf	June 1 - July 31 Gulf of Mexico	1 per harvester per day	
Amberjack, Lesser & Banded Rudderfish	Not less than 14" or more than 22" fork		5 aggregate of lesser amberjack and banded rudderfish	
Bilfish	Sailfish 63"; Blue Marlin 99"; White Marlin 66"		1 per harvester per day aggregate bag limit	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.
Black Drum	Not less than 14" or more than 24"		5 per harvester per day	May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited.
Bluefish	12" fork		10 per harvester per day	
Bonefish			0 per harvester per day	Catch and release only. Hook and line gear only.
Clams (Hard)	1" thick across hinge	May not harvest half hour after official sunset until half hour before official sunrise	One 5 gal. bucket per harvester or 2 per vessel, whichever is less per day (whole in shell)	Illegal to harvest from closed areas. Go to www.floridaaquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
Cobia (Ling)	33" fork		1 per harvester or 6 per vessel per day, whichever is less	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit follow commercial regulations.
Crab, Blue		Sept. 20 - Oct. 4 Gulf state waters beyond 3 miles closed to traps; federal waters closed to traps; Regional closures (see map on page 9)	10 gallons whole per harvester per day	5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited. See page 9 for more information.
Crab, Blue Land		July 1 - Oct 31	20 per harvester per day	Trapping prohibited, harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited, harvest prohibited in state parks and from the right-of-way of federal, state or county maintained roads.
Crab, Stone	2 3/4" claw	May 16 - Oct 14	1 gal. Stone Crab claws per harvester or 2 gal. per vessel, whichever is less	5 traps maximum. Trap requirements apply. Illegal to possess whole crab. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.
Crawfish (Spiny Lobster)	Carapace must be greater than 3" measured in the water	April 1 - Aug. 5 Exception: Sport Season (last consecutive Wed & Thurs of July each year)	Regular season: 6 per harvester per day	Recreational trapping prohibited. Spiny Lobster permit required when license required. Harvest of egg-bearing females prohibited. Special bag limit for 2-day Sport Season. Contact FWC regional office for current information on Sport Season.
Dolphin	20" fork Atlantic		10 per harvester per day, not to exceed 60 per vessel per day	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit follow commercial regulations.
Flounder	12"		10 per harvester per day	May be harvested by spearing. Snatching prohibited.
Gag	24" Atlantic & Monroe County 22" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	June 1 - Sept. 15 & Nov. 16 - Dec. 31, 2011 Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1 - April 30 Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1 - March 31	1 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 2 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	No more than 1 fish may be Gag or Black Grouper, either individually or in combination in Atlantic & Monroe County. Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain & crew on for-hire vessels.
Grouper, Black	24" Atlantic & Monroe County 22" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1 - March 31	1 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 4 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	
Grouper, Red	20"	Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1 - April 30	3 per harvester per day Atlantic & Monroe County; 2 per harvester per day Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain & crew on for-hire vessels.
Grouper, Snowy			1 per harvester per day Atlantic	
Grouper, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth	20"	Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1 - March 31		
Grouper, Scamp	20" Atlantic & Monroe County; 16" Gulf (excluding Monroe County)	Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1 - April 30		
Grouper, Warsaw & Speckled Hind			1 per vessel per day of each species	Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf excluding Monroe County) Grouper aggregate bag limit. Atlantic & Monroe County: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels
Grouper, all others		Closed in Gulf (excluding Monroe County) Feb. 1 - March 31 for Rock Hind and Red Hind Closed Atlantic & Monroe County Jan. 1 - April 30 for Tiger, Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby		
Hogfish	12" fork		5 per harvester per day	
Mackerel, King	24" fork		2 per harvester per day	Bag limit reduced to 1 in some state waters when federal waters are closed to all harvest. Check www.MyFWC.com/Fishing for most current regulations prior to fishing.
Mackerel, Spanish	12" fork		15 per harvester per day	Transfer of Spanish Mackerel to other vessels at sea is prohibited.
Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver			50 aggregate per harvester per day; Aggregate vessel limits Feb. 1 - Aug. 31: 100 per vessel; Sept. 1 - Jan. 31: 50 per vessel	Mullet aggregate bag limit includes Striped and Silver. Call DMFM for additional restrictions in Pinellas and Charlotte counties.
Oysters	3"	June, July, Aug. in Dixie, Wakulla, Levy counties. July, Aug., Sept. in all other areas	2 bags per harvester or vessel, whichever is less per day. 1 bag = 60 lbs. or two 5 gal. buckets (whole in shell)	Apalachicola Bay has summer & winter seasons/areas. Harvest from approved shellfish areas only. Go to www.floridaaquaculture.com for allowable harvesting areas.
Permit	22" fork SPZ; Not less than 11" or more than 22" fork all other areas	May 1 - July 31 SPZ	1 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel per day SPZ; 2 per harvester per day all other state waters	Effective August 31, 2011. May possess 1 over 22" fork length in all other areas, not to exceed 2 over 22" fork per vessel per day. See page 7 for gear restrictions; page 8 for SPZ definition and other information.
Pompano, Florida	11" fork		6 per harvester per day	Effective August 31, 2011. Hook and line, cast net, and beach or haul seine ONLY. See page 8 for more information.

Species	Minimum Size Limits	Closed Season	Daily Rec. Bag Limit	Remarks
Pompano, African T	24" fork		2 per harvester per day, not to exceed 2 per vessel per day.	Effective August 31, 2011. See page 7 for gear restrictions. See page 8 for more information.
Red Drum (Redfish) T	Not less than 18" or more than 27"		1 per harvester per day	Gigging, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited.
Red Porgy	14" Atlantic		3 per harvester per day Atlantic	
Scallops, Bay		Sept. 26, 2011 - June 30, 2012	2 gallons whole or 1 pint meat per harvester per day; no more than 10 gallons whole, or ½ gallon meat per vessel anytime	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.
Sea Bass, Black	12" Atlantic; 10" Gulf		15 per harvester per day Atlantic	
Shad			10 aggregate per harvester per day	American, Alabama & Hickory are part of aggregate limit. Hook & line gear only.
Shark T	54" fork for all sharks except Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, blacktip, bonnethead, finetooth and smooth dogfish		1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less	Hook and line gear only. See list below for prohibited species.
Sheepshead T	12"		15 per harvester per day	Snatching prohibited.
Shrimp		April & May closed to Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler & Clay counties	5 gallons heads on per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less	Contact FWC Regional Office for closed areas.
Snapper, Black & Weakfish			Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit.	
Snapper, Cubera	12" (see remarks)		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit if under 30"	May possess no more than 2 Cubera Snapper over 30" per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less. 30" or larger not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Gray (Mangrove)	10"		5 per harvester per day	Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Lane	8"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit Atlantic	Gulf not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snapper, Mutton	16"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper, Red	20" Atlantic; 16" Gulf	July 19 - May 31 Gulf	2 per harvester per day	Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit. Note: Check www.MyFWC.com/Fishing for most current regulations prior to fishing. Gulf: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Snapper, Schoolmaster	10"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	
Snapper, Vermillion	12" Atlantic; 10" Gulf	Nov. 1 - March 31 Atlantic	5 per harvester per day Atlantic; 10 per harvester per day Gulf	Vermillion Snapper not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit. Atlantic: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Snapper, all other	12"		Included within 10 per harvester per day Snapper aggregate bag limit	Includes: Blackfin, Dog, Mahogany, Queen, Silk & Yellowtail.
Snook (all species) T	Not less than 28" or more than 32" Atlantic Not less than 28" or more than 33" Gulf of Mexico, Monroe County, Everglades Nat. Park	Dec. 15 - Jan. 31; June 1 - Aug. 31 Atlantic. Closed through Aug. 31, 2012 Gulf of Mexico, Monroe County, Everglades National Park	1 per harvester per day	Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. Illegal to buy or sell snook. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited.
Sponge, Commercial	Greater than 5" in greatest dimension measured across the top of the sponge		10 per harvester per day	Includes: Sheepswool, Yellow, Grass, Glove, Finger, Wire, Reef & Velvet sponge.
Spotted Seatrout T	Not less than 15" or more than 20" (statewide) except one fish over 20" per person	Nov. & Dec. S. Region Feb. N.E. and N.W. Regions (see regional definitions page 9)	4 per harvester per day South Region 5 per harvester per day N.E. and N.W. Regions	May possess no more than 1 over 20"; included in the regional bag limit. See regional definitions map on page 9.
Swordfish	47" lower jaw fork length with head attached or 29" cleithrum to keel length if head removed.		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	All landed fish must be reported to NOAA within 24 hours 800-894-5528. FWS permit required in Federal waters. Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels.
Tarpon			2 fish possession limit	Requires \$50 tarpon tag to possess or harvest. Snatching and spearing prohibited. Boca Grande Pass has seasonal regulations. Contact DMFM for current information.
Tilfish, Golden			1 per harvester per day Atlantic	Included within the 3 per harvester per day (Atlantic & Monroe County) and 4 per harvester per day (Gulf, excluding Monroe County) Groupers aggregate bag limit. Atlantic: Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.
Triggerfish (Gray)	12" fork Atlantic; 14" fork Gulf			Triggerfish except Gray and Ocean have live landing & live well requirements.
Tripletail	15"		2 per harvester per day	Hook & line gear only. No snatch hooks.
Wahoo			2 per harvester per day	To sell or exceed the daily bag limit, follow commercial regulations.
Weakfish	12"		1 per harvester per day	Regulations apply in parts of Nassau County only. See MyFWC.com for map.
<p>Must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (heads, fins & tails intact). 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. See Reef Fish Gear Rules page 7. T Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.</p>			<p>PROHIBITED SPECIES It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell, or exchange the following species: Goliath Grouper (Jewish), 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, Manta Ray, Spotted Eagle Ray, Longbill Spearfish, Mediterranean Spearfish, Roundscale Spearfish, Sturgeon, Florida Queen Conch, 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.</p>	
<p>Harvester: Regardless of what species you are fishing for, bag limits are only for properly licensed individuals and those people exempt from licensing requirements who are actively harvesting. People harvesting may not exceed the individual bag limit and take someone else's bag limit. That is, people (including children) who are not actively harvesting or are not properly licensed (if license is required) may NOT be counted for the purpose of bag limits.</p>			 <p>For saltwater fishing information visit the FWC website at www.fwc.com or call 1-888-368-6868</p>	
<p>FWC REGIONAL OFFICES Northwest Region Panama City 850-265-3676; North Central Region Lake City 386-758-0525; Northeast Region Ocala 352-732-1225; Southwest Region Lakeland 863-648-3200; South Region West Palm Beach 561-625-5122; Wildlife Alert 888-404-FWCC (3922)</p>				

Marine life regulations

Requirements for Recreational Marine Life 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

* 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.

See MyFWC.com for FAQs about marine life harvest and information about collecting shells with live organisms.

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 Gray 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 include³: Basslets, Batfish, Blackbar Soldierfish, Blennies, Brotulas (Black and Key), Cardinalfish, Clingfish, Cornetfish, Damsel fish, 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.
Conch, Queen	Harvest prohibited
Corals, Hard (Stony)	Harvest prohibited
Corals, Soft (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 in response to federal octocoral closures
Crab, Hermit	Except Land Hermit Crabs
Crab, Horseshoe	Harvest prohibited
Live Rock	Harvest prohibited
Octopods ³	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
Starfish ³	Harvest of Bahama Starfish (Cushion Sea Star) prohibited
Urchins ³	Except Sand Dollars & Sea Biscuits; harvest of Longspine Urchin prohibited

Other Marine Life Invertebrates include³: 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	One gallon of tropical ornamental marine plants per day in any combination; 2 gallon maximum possession limit
Caulerpa	
Hallimeda/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 5–6.

³ Bag limit of 2 live shells of any single species per harvester per day in Manatee County. Harvest prohibited in Lee County.



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission




















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Home ; Wildlife & Habitats ; Species Profiles ; Fish :

Species Profiles

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- Fish
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- Relocating Wildlife
- Managed Species
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This section highlights some of the great diversity of saltwater fishes that Florida has to offer and provides angling tips and identification information. For regulations, please visit MyFWC.com or pick up a copy of the Florida Fishing Regulations - Saltwater Edition, wherever licenses are sold. For those unfamiliar with the parts of a fish, a diagram is available for reference.

 Saltwater Fish Almaco Jack	 Saltwater Fish American Shad	 Saltwater Fish Atlantic Croaker
 Saltwater Fish Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	 Saltwater Fish Atlantic Spadefish	 Saltwater Fish Banded Rudderfish
 Saltwater Fish Bank Sea Bass	 Saltwater Fish Black Drum	 Saltwater Fish Black Grouper
 Saltwater Fish Black Sea Bass	 Saltwater Fish Blackfin Snapper	 Saltwater Fish Blacktip Shark
 Saltwater Fish Blue Marlin	 Saltwater Fish Blue Runner	 Saltwater Fish Bluefish
 Saltwater Fish Bonfish	 Saltwater Fish Bonnethead Shark	 Saltwater Fish Cero Mackerel
		

**Saltwater Fish
Cobia**



**Saltwater Fish
Crevalle Jack**



**Saltwater Fish
Cubera Snapper**



**Saltwater Fish
Dog Snapper**



**Saltwater Fish
Dolphin**



**Saltwater Fish
Fantail Mullet**



**Saltwater Fish
Fat Snook**



**Saltwater Fish
Florida Pompano**



**Saltwater Fish
Gag Grouper**



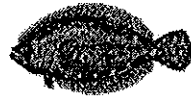
**Saltwater Fish
Goliath Grouper**



**Saltwater Fish
Gray Snapper**



**Saltwater Fish
Greater Amberjack**



**Saltwater Fish
Gulf Flounder**



**Saltwater Fish
Gulf Sturgeon**



**Saltwater Fish
Jolthead Porgy**



**Saltwater Fish
King Mackerel**



**Saltwater Fish
Knobbed Porgy**



**Saltwater Fish
Ladyfish**



**Saltwater Fish
Lane Snapper**



**Saltwater Fish
Lesser Amberjack**



**Saltwater Fish
Longbill Spearfish**



**Saltwater Fish
Mahogany Snapper**



**Saltwater Fish
Mutton Snapper**



**Saltwater Fish
Nassau Grouper**



**Saltwater Fish
Palometa**



**Saltwater Fish
Permit**



**Saltwater Fish
Pinfish**



Saltwater Fish
Queen Snapper



Saltwater Fish
Red Drum



Saltwater Fish
Red Grouper



Saltwater Fish
Red Porgy



Saltwater Fish
Red Snapper



Saltwater Fish
Rock Sea Bass



Saltwater Fish
Sailfish



Saltwater Fish
Sand Seatrout



Saltwater Fish
Sandbar Shark



Saltwater Fish
Scalloped Hammerhead
Shark



Saltwater Fish
Scamp



Saltwater Fish
Schoolmaster



Saltwater Fish
Sheepshead



Saltwater Fish
Shortfin Mako Shark



Saltwater Fish
Silk Snapper



Saltwater Fish
Silver Perch



Saltwater Fish
Silver Seatrout



Saltwater Fish
Snook



Saltwater Fish
Spanish Mackerel



Saltwater Fish
Spotted Seatrout



Saltwater Fish
Striped Mullet



Saltwater Fish
Swordfish











Saltwater Fish
Swordspline Snook



Saltwater Fish
Tarpon



Saltwater Fish Tarpon Snook	Saltwater Fish Tripletail	Saltwater Fish Vermillion Snapper
 Saltwater Fish Wahoo	 Saltwater Fish Warsaw Grouper	 Saltwater Fish Weakfish
 Saltwater Fish White Grunt	 Saltwater Fish White Marlin	 Saltwater Fish Yellowfin Grouper
 Saltwater Fish Yellowmouth Grouper	 Saltwater Fish Yellowtail Snapper	

FWC Facts:
The American crocodile is an endangered species success story. Since 1975 their numbers have increased from fewer than 300 to more than 1,500 adults.

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This section describes some of Florida's most popular freshwater fishes and offers angling tips and identification information. If you catch a big one, check out our "Big Catch" angler recognition program. Most illustrations are by Duane Raver, Jr., (see link for a CD of his artwork).

 Freshwater Fish Largemouth Bass	 Freshwater Fish Shoal Bass	 Freshwater Fish Spotted Bass
 Freshwater Fish Black Crappie	 Freshwater Fish Suwannee Bass	 Freshwater Fish Bluegill
 Freshwater Fish Redear Sunfish	 Freshwater Fish Redbreast Sunfish	 Freshwater Fish Spotted Sunfish
 Freshwater Fish Warmouth	 Freshwater Fish Striped Bass	 Freshwater Fish White Bass
 Freshwater Fish Sunshine Bass	 Freshwater Fish Peacock Bass	 Freshwater Fish Channel Catfish
 Freshwater Fish Flathead Catfish	 Freshwater Fish Blue Catfish	 Freshwater Fish White Catfish
 Freshwater Fish	 Freshwater Fish	

Brown Bullhead	Yellow Bullhead	Freshwater Fish Mayan Cichlid
 Freshwater Fish Oscar	 Freshwater Fish Blue Tilapia	 Freshwater Fish Chain Pickerel
 Freshwater Fish Florida Gar	 Freshwater Fish Bowfin	 Freshwater Fish American Shad

FWC Facts:

Owls swallow their prey whole because they have no teeth. After 12 hours they cough up the feathers, bones and fur in a football-shaped pellet.

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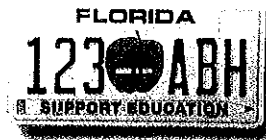
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