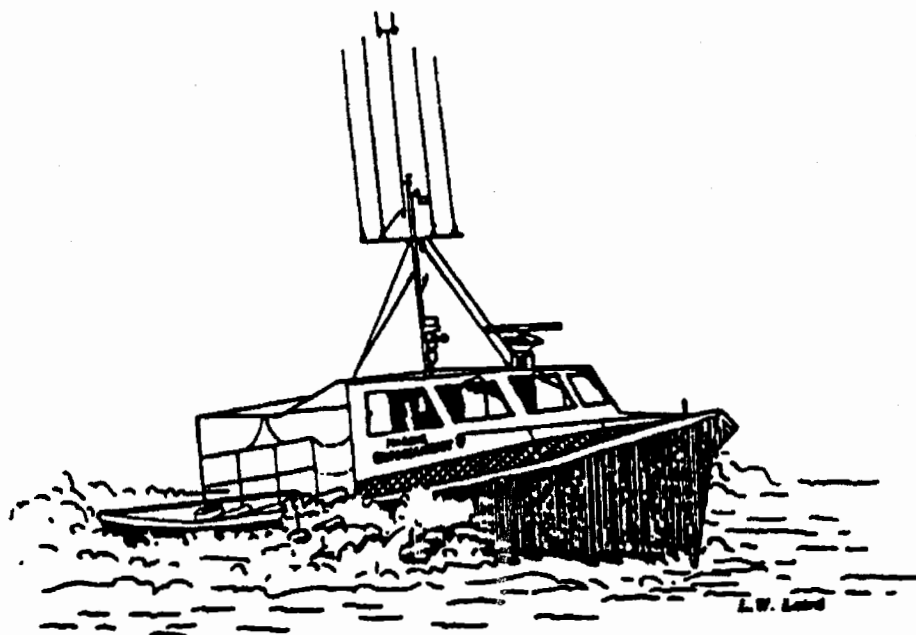


**A SUMMARY OF MARINE
FISHING LAWS AND
REGULATIONS
FOR THE GULF STATES***

1995



*An unofficial compilation of marine fishing laws and regulations developed for the information and convenience of enforcement personnel. For definitive regulations contact the various agency enforcement personnel.

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for the Gulf States. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1995, but changes may occur in each state at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations in each state contact the enforcement personnel listed on the various state maps.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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MARINE FISHERY LAWS AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE GULF STATES

ALABAMA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Alabama. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1995, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact Marine Resources Division, P.O. Box 189, Dauphin Island, AL 36528 (205/861-2882).

SHRIMP

Commercial License

Commercial Shrimp Boats
Under 30' - \$51.00
30' - 45' - \$76.00
Over 45' - \$101.00

(Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents in the applicant's state of residence - except for reciprocal state, Mississippi. Non-resident licenses are sold only by Marine Resources Division offices.)

Recreational License

\$16.00 boat license. (Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents in the applicant's state of residence - except for reciprocal state, Mississippi.)

Commercial Season

Set by regulation

Recreational Season

Prohibited in areas closed to commercial shrimping and permanently closed areas. Shrimping is allowed throughout the year in designated exclusive bait areas from 4:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Commercial Gear Limitations

No restrictions on mesh size. In inside waters (bays, sounds, etc.) a trawl or trawls used together cannot exceed 50' as measured along the main top line. No more than two trawls may be used at the same time (not including a try trawl, which cannot exceed 10' on the main top line). No restrictions on trawl size offshore (Gulf of Mexico) - (other commercial specifications apply). Trawl wings shall be cut and tied to the wing line only on points and it shall be illegal to use a trawl or trawls on which the length of the top leg line exceeds the length of the bottom leg line, the length of the leg line being defined as the distance from the rear of the trawl door to the beginning of the wing. Webbing or netting shall not be hung, tied or otherwise connected between the rear of the trawl board or door and the adjacent wing line or between the top leg line and bottom leg line of any trawl so as to extend the width of any trawl or trawls over the legal width (50').

No restrictions on trawl size offshore (Gulf of Mexico).

Recreational Gear Limitations

One trawl size not to exceed 16' as measured along the main top line. There are no restrictions on mesh size.

Commercial Legal Size

Shrimp smaller in size than 68 count are not to be taken in Alabama waters.

Recreational Legal Size

No restrictions in areas open to commercial shrimping and designated exclusive bait areas.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

In areas open to commercial shrimping, 5 gallons per person per day. In designated exclusive bait areas, 1 gallon per boat per day.

LIVE BAIT

License

Sell live shrimp for bait and operate one boat and one truck - \$51.00
Sell live shrimp for bait and operate two boats and two trucks - \$101.00 (Limit two boats or trucks per dealer.)

Shore Facility

Permanently erected building from which fishing bait and fishing supplies and tackle are routinely sold to the public.

Season

No closed season. Prohibited in permanently closed areas. Designated exclusive bait areas are open to live bait dealers year around from 4:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Gear

One trawl per boat. Trawl shall not exceed 16' as measured across main top line. No mesh restrictions. Boats shall display the words "LIVE BAIT" in letters no smaller than 6" high on each side of the boat; shall have a tank with a spray system operated by a pump or commercial fish aerator, or a live well with forced water exchange. Trucks must have a wooden or fabricated transport tank with recirculating water or commercial fish aerator.

Legal Size

No restrictions.

Pounds Allowed

Possession of no more than one standard shrimp basket of shrimp live or dead per boat or truck. Possession of no more than three standard shrimp baskets of shrimp live or dead per place of business.

Restrictions

Drags shall not exceed 20 consecutive minutes before retrieving trawl and sorting bait shrimp into the live tank. Shrimp can be sold alive or dead. Dead shrimp must have heads attached and be packaged and sold in lots no greater than one pound.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS AND CLAMS

License Requirements

All licenses expire September 30th of each year.

Persons are allowed to take up to 100 oysters for personal consumption without a Catcher's License.

Commercial Oyster Catcher - \$26.00 -- Required by all persons (must be in possession) taking oysters for commercial purposes.

Resident Seafood Dealer - \$201.00 -- Required by any person, firm or corporation opening oysters for resale. Oysters may be opened for resale only on premises certified by the AL Department of Public Health. -- Required by any person, firm or corporation wholesaling or retailing oysters, whether shucked or in the shell. Nonresidents pay \$401.00 or the same fee as that charged Alabama residents to conduct the same activity in the applicant's state of residence if Alabama residents are charged more than \$401.00; provided, that nonresidents shall not pay less than twice the cost for said license as that charged Alabama residents.

Oyster Dredge - \$26.00 -- Required before an oyster dredge can be used along with evidence that a \$1,000 bond has been secured.

Seasons

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Health are authorized to open and close areas during all or parts of the year. Taking oysters from a closed area for any reason is a misdemeanor. Taking oysters from open areas before or after time as set by regulation is prohibited. Transporting oysters at night through closed areas is prohibited.

Gear

Oysters may be taken from public reefs and waterbottoms by hand or oyster tongs. Oyster dredges may be used by owners or lessees of private oyster reefs only after purchasing an Oyster Dredge License, posting a \$1000 bond and receiving written authorization from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Size Limits

Oysters taken for either commercial or personal consumption must be at least 3" in length (5% undersize tolerance). Oysters must be culled on the reef where they are taken.

Possession Limits

Unlawful to take or have in possession more than the number of sacks of oysters per boat per day as set by regulation.

Leases

Persons, firms or corporations desiring to lease oyster bottoms shall make application in writing to the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed. It is the duty of each lessee to have established an accurate survey by a registered surveyor of the bottoms, beds or reefs under his control, and each corner shall be clearly marked and defined with the lessee's name clearly attached. Intermediate markers shall be placed and plat of the area filed with the division of marine resources together with a list of any persons using said lease area (list must be updated every 30 days).

Restrictions

It is unlawful to drag any seines over the public reefs or private oyster grounds. Oysters taken commercially must be sacked (not more than 1/4 Alabama barrel per sack) and each sack tagged before landing. Tags may be purchased for \$0.25/each at Marine Resources Division offices.

SHELLFISH - CRABS**Licenses**

Commercial - \$51.00 (over 5 traps)

Recreational - No license (5 traps maximum)

Traps/boats must display identifying markings. (Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents to conduct the same activity in the applicant's state of residence, or not less than twice the amount of resident license.)

Restrictions

It shall be unlawful to set or place any trap used for the taking of crabs in of any marked navigational channel or within 100 yards of any public boat launching ramp. Traps shall not exceed 27 cubic feet in volume. It is unlawful to take crabs from traps belonging to another without written authorization. Each commercial crab trap shall be marked with at least one buoy no smaller than 6" in diameter, and 1/2 of the buoy shall be white. It is unlawful to remove commercial crab traps from the water or remove crabs from commercial crab traps during the hours from sunset to 1 hour before sunrise the following day. The harvesting of crabs with crab pots is prohibited in waters north of a line established by the eastbound lane of Interstate 10 highway, except for the portion of Interstate 10 lying north of Highway 90 (Battleship Parkway) where the line shall follow Battleship Parkway.

Legal Size

It shall be unlawful to sell for commercial purposes blue crabs smaller than 5" in width as measured across the widest points of the upper shell, except for soft-shelled or pre-molt crabs or crabs sold for use as bait. (Live bait shrimp dealer license required if crabs are sold as bait.)

FINFISH**SALTWATER ROD AND REEL LICENSE**

Resident - \$16.00 Annual

\$6.00 7-day trip

\$5.00 Annual Pier (fish from public piers - residents only)

Nonresident - 7 day

Florida - \$16.00

Louisiana - \$52.00

Georgia - \$11.00

Mississippi - \$15.00

Tennessee - \$16.00

All Other States - \$11.00

Nonresident - Annual

Florida - \$31.00

Louisiana - \$67.00

Georgia - \$31.00

Mississippi - \$31.00

Tennessee - \$31.00

All Other States - \$31.00

PIER LICENSE - \$1000.00 (Piers inside waters of state may purchase license - allows residents to fish without additional license)

COMMERCIAL PARTY BOAT

Certified Up to 6 People - \$201.00

7 - 25 People - \$301.00

Over 25 People - \$501.00

Recreational Size and Possession Limits for Alabama are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Ling		2	33 FL	
Speckled trout		10	14 TL	
Redfish		3	16 TL	26 TL
Red snapper		5	15 TL	
Snapper --		10 ¹		
Gray			12 TL	
Mutton			12 TL	
Yellowtail			12 TL	
Vermilion			8 TL	
Lane			8 TL	
Spanish mackerel		10		
King mackerel		2	20 FL	
Greater amberjack		3 ²	28 FL	
Striped bass		6 ³	16 TL	
Black (gag) grouper		5 ⁴	20 TL	
Tarpon		Tag required	60 TL	
Florida pompano			12 TL	
Mullet ⁵		25 per person or vessel		

¹10 = ten fish in aggregate

²3 = three fish in aggregate.

³When caught in areas designated as salt water.

⁴5 = five fish in aggregate (groupers).

⁵October 24-December 31 taken by cast net or snagging.

No allowance for undersized fish, except: speckled trout - 2; redfish - no undersized fish allowed, 1 may exceed the maximum size.

Commercial Size and Possession Limits for Alabama are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Red snapper			14 TL	
Ling (Cobia)		2	33 FL	
Black (gag) grouper			20 TL	
Striped bass ¹			16 TL	
Florida pompano			12 TL	
Vermilion snapper			8 TL	
Lane snapper			8 TL	
Gray snapper			12 TL	
Mutton snapper			12 TL	
Yellowtail snapper			12 TL	
King mackerel			20 FL	
Greater amberjack			28 FL	
Redfish			16 TL	26 TL
Mullet ²		25 per person or vessel		

¹When caught in areas designated as salt water.

²October 24-December 31 taken by cast net or snagging.

It is unlawful to sell speckled trout and red drum caught in state waters. Season may close for other species upon closure of federal waters. No allowance for undersize fish.

SALTWATER NETS

Permits

Permits expire September 30 of each year.

Recreational - Up to 300' - \$51.00

Resident Commercial - Up to 2400' - \$301.00 plus additional \$501.00 for roe mullet and Spanish mackerel permit.

Non-resident - Up to 2400' - \$1500.00 plus additional \$2,500.00 for roe mullet and Spanish mackerel permit.

Non-resident - Up to 300' - pays the same fee as that charged Alabama resident to conduct same activity in applicant's state of residence; provided, non-residents pay no less than twice the cost for license that Alabama residents pay.

Permits for commercial net and seine permits shall only be issued to persons who purchased such licenses in two of five years from 1989 through 1993 and who have proof of 50% of their gross income from fishing, or persons who purchased such a license in all five years and have filed annual income tax returns in all years.

All nets and seines must be licensed except seines used for taking bait. Such seines shall not exceed 25' in length or 4' in depth. The total length of nets must not exceed 2400'. A license made out to an individual is not transferable, licensee must be present when net is in use. A seafood dealers license is also required if fish are sold to other than an Alabama seafood dealer. A license is not required for cast nets when used by Alabama residents.

Restrictions

Gill nets must be marked every 100 feet with a color contrasting float and every 300 feet with the fisherman's permit number. Recreational nets may not exceed 300 feet in length and must be marked with the licensee's name and license number. Commercial gill nets, trammel nets, and other entangling nets may not exceed 2,400 feet in length; however, depth may vary by area.

During the period January 1 through October 1 of each year, gill nets, trammel nets, and other entangling nets used to catch any fish in Gulf water in Alabama's territorial jurisdiction must have a minimum mesh size of 1 3/4" bar (knot to knot). A minimum mesh size of 1 7/8" bar is required for such nets used to take mullet during the period October 24 through December 31 of each year for all Alabama coastal waters under the jurisdiction of the MRD, and only strike nets may be used in certain waters of Bon Secour Bay during this period. Any person using a 1 7/8" or larger bar mesh net during the period October 24 through December 31 of each year shall be considered a roe mullet fisherman and must possess a roe mullet permit. These restrictions do not apply to coastal rivers, bayous, creeks, or streams. In these areas (with the exception of Delvan Bay, Grand Bay, Polecat Bay, and those portions of the Blakely and Apalachee Rivers south of the I-10 Causeway), the minimum mesh size shall be 6" stretched mesh. The minimum mesh for nets used in these excepted areas shall be generally the same as previously described by season for other coastal waters.

The use of purse seines to catch mullet is prohibited. Commercial and recreational gill net fishermen may use only one net at any time; however, commercial fishermen may possess more than one such net. No hook and line device may contain more than five hooks when used in Alabama salt waters.

Gill nets, trammel nets, seines, purse seines, and other entangling nets are prohibited in any marked navigational channel, Theodore Industrial Canal, Little Lagoon Pass, or any man-made canal; within 300 feet of any man-made canal or the mouth of any river, stream, bayou, or creek; and within 300 feet of any pier, marina, dock, boat launching ramp, or certain "relic" piers. Recreational gill nets may not be used beyond 300 feet of any shoreline, and they may not extend into the water beyond the end of any adjacent pier or block ingress or egress from any of the aforementioned structures.

From January 1 through October 1 of each year, gill nets, trammel nets, seines, haul seines, and other entangling nets are prohibited within 0.25 miles of shore, except (and subject to other provisions) waters east of longitude 87°59' which will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each day from March 15 through the Thursday before Memorial Day. From October 2 through December 31 only mullet may be caught with 1 7/8" minimum mesh nets in these waters during these hours.

From January 1 through the day after Labor Day of each year, entangling nets are prohibited in certain waters in and around Dauphin Island. From the first day after Labor Day through October 23 of each year, possession of mullet aboard a boat with net gear is prohibited in Mobile Bay north of the Intercoastal Waterway and east of the Dauphin Island Bridge and west of the Bon Secour River Channel.

It is illegal to remove the roe or otherwise process roe mullet aboard any boat or vessel in Alabama. All nets must be constantly attended by the licensee and no dead fish or other dead seafood may be discarded within three miles of the Gulf beaches, 500 feet of any shoreline, or into any river, stream, bayou, or creek.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

Seafood Dealer - \$201.00

Nonresidents - \$401.00 or the same fee that is charged an Alabama resident in their state if Alabama residents are charged more than \$401.00.

FLORIDA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Florida. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1995, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact an office of the Florida Marine Patrol. General headquarters: Division of Law Enforcement, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 (904/488-5600).

Commercial License

Saltwater Products License (SPL) is required to engage in trapping stone crabs, blue crabs, the harvest of crawfish, commercial trawling for shrimp and non-resident sponge fishing. An SPL is issued in the name of an individual or a valid boat registration number. An SPL is required to sell saltwater products (your harvest) and can only be sold to a licensed wholesale dealer.

Resident individual - \$50.00

Non-resident - \$200.00

Alien individual - \$300.00

Resident vessel - \$100.00

Non-resident vessel - \$400.00

Alien vessel - \$600.00

(Note: Vessel SPL covers captain and crew on board vessel).

Recreational Saltwater Fishing

Resident 10-day - \$11.50

Resident 1-year - \$13.50

Non-resident 3-day - \$6.50

Non-resident 7-day - \$16.50

Non-resident 1-year - \$31.50

(Above licenses available through sub-agent for an additional \$.50 each.)

ANNUAL COMMERCIAL VESSEL SALTWATER FISHING -

11 or more customers - \$801.50

5-10 customers - \$401.50

4 or less customers - \$201.50

OPTIONAL PIER SALTWATER FISHING - \$501.50

OPTIONAL RECREATIONAL VESSEL - \$3001.50

SHRIMP

T.E.D.

A Turtle Excluder Device is required in all trawls in state waters. The possession aboard any vessel in or on state waters any trawl rigged for fishing that does not have a qualified T.E.D. installed therein is prohibited except for the following types of gear: 1) a single try net; 2) a roller frame trawl; 3) an experimental trawl authorized by NMFS; 4) trawls operated on the inside waters with a headrope length not greater than 35' and a perimeter around the leading edge not exceeding 105'.

Recreational License

All recreational shrimp fishermen using a trawl net require a net registration and are limited to 5 gallons of heads-on shrimp per vessel.

Commercial Season

Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties: In Escambia Bay and above a line running east from Robinson Point in Blackwater Bay and east of a line running north across Alexon Point in East Bay, season is closed from January 1 through September 15. All bayous in Escambia County, from Brooks Bridge at Fort Walton Beach west to the Bob Sikes Bridge, and those parts of Five Mile Bayou, west of the bridge of State Road 85 crossing Garnier's Bayou are closed to shrimping. During open seasons, shrimping is allowed only during the hours of 6:00 am until 9:00 pm daily.

Franklin and Wakulla Counties: All areas north of the Gorrie Memorial Bridge are permanently closed. From April 1 to June 15, the area from Cape San Blas to Cape St. George, 3 miles seaward, is closed to nets exceeding 18' on the cork line. From March 1 to May, shrimping is prohibited in designated waters adjacent to Wakulla County. From July 15 to September 15, the Apalachicola Bay and St. Vincent Sound are closed during the daylight hours. Shrimping is closed in a portion of the Carrabelle River west and north of State Road 30 and in that portion of the Ochlockonee Bay west of State Road 30 all year.

Citrus, Pasco and Hernando Counties: Shrimping in designated areas during designated dates is prohibited.

Taylor County: Except as provided in subsection (4), no person shall operate any trawl within the following described area: Beginning at a point on the shoreline of the Gulf on the north side of the channel at Steinhatchee; thence westerly along the line of navigational buoys marking the north side of said channel to flashing light number "1" marking the outer extent of said channel; thence westerly to navigational flashing light number "18"; thence northwesterly to navigational flashing light number "22"; thence north-northwesterly to a privately maintained flashing light at Gamble Point near the mouth of the Aucilla River; thence southeasterly along the shoreline along the Gulf to the point of beginning. (4) A person possessing a live bait shrimping license issued by the DNR pursuant to Section 370.15, FL Statutes, may operate a trawl or trawls within the area described in subsection 3 if each of the following conditions is met: (a) the person is harvesting

live bait shrimp using no more than 2 roller frame trawls; (b) neither the upper or lower horizontal beam on a roller frame trawl so used is greater than 15 feet in length. (5) As used in this rule: (a) "roller frame trawl" means a trawl with all of the following: 1. a rectangular rigid frame to keep the mouth of the trawl open while being towed; 2. the lower horizontal beam of the frame has rollers to allow the trawl to roll over the bottom and any obstructions while being towed; 3. the trawl opening is shielded by a grid of vertical bars spaced no more than 3" apart; 4. the trawl is towed by attaching a line or towing cable to a tongue located above or at the center of the upper horizontal beam of the frame; 5. the trawl has no doors attached to keep the mouth of the trawl open. (b) "Trawl" means a net in the form of an elongated bag with the mouth kept open by various means and fished by being towed or dragged on the bottom.

Lee County: Shrimping prohibited within a designated area.

Tortugas Shrimp Bed: Shrimping prohibited except for live bait shrimping under permit.

Florida East Coast Shrimp Bed: Night shrimping prohibited September through May.

Recreational Season

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp season apply. Non-commercial trawls are required to be registered with the Department.

Commercial Gear Limitations

See net limitation information following this section.

Statewide food shrimp production: brine box is prohibited. Inside waters a single try net with a headrope length not greater than 10' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 30' is allowed. Other than inshore waters a single try net with a headrope length not greater than 20' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net no greater than 60' is allowed. Prohibits the harvest of shrimp for food shrimp, live bait or recreational on the same trip.

The state is divided into 5 regions for the purpose of lawful allowed gear in each region for the harvest of food shrimp. The regions and the legal harvest gear are as follows:

Each person harvesting shrimp in or on state waters as a food shrimp producer shall possess shrimp that are of legal size; average count not exceeding 47 shrimp per pound with heads-on or 70 shrimp per pound with heads-off.

No person harvesting shrimp in or on state waters as a food shrimp producer shall use a brine box to separate shrimp from other species or possess a brine box aboard the vessel for such harvest.

A person harvesting shrimp in or on the inshore waters of the state may use a single try net with a headrope length not greater than 10' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 30' if such try net is pulled immediately in front of another trawl or trawls or is not connected to another trawl in any way. Such try net shall have a mesh size no smaller than that allowed in this chapter for trawls in the region where used.

A person harvesting shrimp in or on the waters of the state other than inshore waters may use a single try net with a headrope length not greater than 20' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net greater than 60' if such try net is pulled immediately in front of another trawl or trawls or is not connected to another trawl in any way. Such try net shall have a mesh size no smaller than that allowed in this chapter for trawls in the region where used.

No person harvesting shrimp in or on the waters of the state shall operate as a food shrimp producer and as a live bait shrimp producer or recreational harvester on the same trip.

Northwest Region Food Shrimp Production (all state waters of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties).

No person shall harvest shrimp in the inshore waters of the region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than: (a) a roller frame trawl meeting the following specifications: 1) neither the upper or lower horizontal beam is greater than 16' in length; 2) the vertical bars shielding the trawl opening are spaced no further than 3" apart; 3) no more than 4 such trawls shall be towed by a single vessel at any time; (b) an otter trawl meeting either of the following specifications: 1) a single otter trawl with a headrope length not greater than 50' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 150'; or 2) two otter trawls, each with a headrope length not greater than 25' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 75'. Two trawls meeting these specifications may be connected and each attached to a sled, used in lieu of the inner door on each trawl, if a separation of at least 10 feet is maintained between the two trawls at all times during trawling. 2) no trawl shall be used for food shrimp production in the inshore waters of the Northwest Region that has a mesh size less than 3/4" bar measurement in the body of the net and 5/8" bar measurement in the cod end. In any trawl with a rigid turtle excluder device (TED), the section of netting surrounding the device shall have a mesh size no smaller than 1/2" bar measurement and shall be no more than 50 meshes in total length.

Big Bend Region Food Shrimp Production (state waters of Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco Counties).

(1) No person shall harvest shrimp in the region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than a roller frame trawl meeting the following specifications: (a) Beginning January 1, 1994, neither the upper or lower horizontal beam on a roller frame trawl so used is greater than 16' in length; (b) the vertical bars shielding the trawl opening are spaced no further than 3" apart; (c) no such trawl shall have a mesh size less than 3/4" bar measurement in the body of the net and 5/8" bar measurement in the cod end; (d) no more than four such

trawls shall be towed by a single vessel at any time. (2) Each person harvesting shrimp in the region as a food shrimp producer shall comply with Rule 46-38.003.

Southwest Region Food Shrimp Production (state waters of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier Counties).

(1) No person shall harvest shrimp in the inshore waters of the region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than: (a) a roller frame trawl meeting the following specifications: 1) Neither the upper or lower horizontal beam on the roller frame trawl so used is greater than 16' in length; 2) the vertical bars shielding the trawl opening are spaced no further than 3" apart; 3) no more than four such trawls shall be towed by a single vessel at any time; (b) an otter trawl meeting either of the following specifications: 1) Except in Tampa Bay, a single otter trawl with a headrope length not greater than 25' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 75'; or 2) In Tampa Bay, no more than two otter trawls, each with a headrope length not greater than 25' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 75'. Two trawls meeting these specifications may be connected and each attached to a sled, used in lieu of the inner door on each trawl, if a separate of at least 10' is maintained between the two trawls during trawling. (2) No trawl shall be used for food shrimp production in the inshore waters of the Southwest Region that has a mesh size less than 7/8" bar measurement in the body of the net and 3/4" bar measurement in the cod end. In any trawl with a rigid turtle excluder device (TED), the section of netting surrounding the device shall have a mesh size no smaller than 5/8" bar measurement and shall be no more than 50 meshes in total length.

Southeast Region Food Shrimp Production (state waters of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Dade and Monroe Counties). No person shall harvest shrimp in the inshore waters of the Southeast Region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than: (1) a wing net meeting the following specifications: (a) no wing net shall have an opening larger than 28' around the perimeter; (b) no more than two wing nets shall be attached to or fished from a single vessel; (c) no wing net shall be fished by towing or dragging it over the bottom; (2) a frame net meeting the following specifications: (a) no frame net shall have an opening larger than 28' around the perimeter; (b) no more than one frame net shall be fished from a single vessel and no frame net shall be fished from a vessel also using wing nets; (c) no frame net shall be fished by towing or dragging it over the bottom.

Northeast Region Food Shrimp Production (state waters of Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, and Brevard Counties, including all of the St. Johns River). (1) Except as provided for Volusia County in Rule 46-3.008(3)(g), no person shall harvest shrimp in the inshore waters of the region as a food shrimp producer with any type of gear other than: (a) a roller frame trawl meeting the following specifications: 1) neither the upper or lower horizontal beam on a roller frame trawl used is greater than 16' in length; 2) the vertical bars shielding the trawl opening are spaced no further than 3" apart; 3) no more than four such trawls shall be towed by a single vessel at any time; (b) an otter trawl meeting the following specifications: 1) the trawl shall have a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 100'; 2) no more than one such trawl shall be towed by a single vessel at any time. (2) No trawl shall be used for food shrimp production in the inshore waters of the Northeast Region that has a mesh size less than 3/4" bar measurement in the body of the net and 5/8" bar measurement in the cod end. In any trawl with a rigid turtle excluder device (TED), the section of netting surrounding the device shall have a mesh size no smaller than 1/2" bar measurement and shall be no more than 50 meshes in total length.

Recreational Gear Limitations

Allowable recreational harvest gear: landing or dip net with an opening no larger than 96 inches around the perimeter; cast net; push net; one frame net with an opening no larger than 16' around the perimeter; shrimp trap; beach or haul seine no greater than 100' in length; a single otter trawl with a headrope length no greater than 16' and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 48'; baited area during daylight hours.

Commercial Legal Size

The taking or possession of food shrimp of a size smaller than 47 count heads-on or 70 count heads-off.

Recreational Legal Size

No size limit.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No Limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

5 gallons heads-on per person or vessel whichever is less.

LIVE BAIT

License

SPL required. In St. Johns River (Duval County) a live bait production license is required.

Season

All year.

Gear

All live bait shrimp boats must be equipped with live bait shrimp tanks. St. Johns River - Duval County. Net cannot exceed 60' perimeter measurement. Live bait tank required.

Legal Size

No restrictions.

Pounds Allowed

In all counties no more than 5 gallons of dead shrimp are allowed on board.

Restrictions

Harvest gear is limited to roller frame trawls only throughout the state except in St. Johns River and Volusia County.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS AND CLAMS

License Requirements

Oysters and clams can only be harvested from approved shellfish harvesting areas.

Oyster Harvesting License -- Required for Apalachicola Bay only.

Resident - \$100.00

Non-resident and Alien - \$500.00

Oyster Relaying Permit - No Charge.

Oyster Leases - \$5.00/acre

Seasons

Season is closed between June 1 and September 1 of each year in Dixie and Levy counties. All other areas July through September.

Gear

Dredges may be used for harvesting oysters or clams on private leases after posting a \$3000 bond and securing a Special Activity License.

Size Limits

Minimum size for oysters is 3". Minimum size for clams is 1" thick.

Commercial Limits

Bag limits are established in certain areas of the state for oysters.

Leases

Information available from the Division of Marine Resources, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Restrictions

Oysters and clams can only be harvested from an approved shellfish harvesting area.

Recreational

Harvest limited to two (2) bags per person or boat whichever is less per day.

SHELLFISH - CRABS

Licenses

An SPL is required to fish with more than five blue crab or stone crab traps.

Saltwater Products License -- Required by the fisherman to sell any saltwater product and allows sale only to a licensed wholesale dealer.

Restrictions

Stone crab season is closed between May 15 and October 15.

Legal Size

Hardshell blue crabs must be 5" in width if sold. Stone crab claws must have 2 3/4" forearm length.

Recreational

Allowed five (5) blue crab traps or less without an SPL.

Allowed five (5) stone crab traps or less without an SPL.

SHELLFISH - LOBSTERS

License

\$100.00

Season

August 6-March 31 for spiny lobster. Trap may be placed in the water five days prior to season. Traps must be removed from the water by April 5. There is a special two-day non-trap recreational spiny lobster season the last Wednesday and successive Thursday prior to August 1.

Gear

Wood slat traps and plastic traps with a degradable panel located on the top horizontal section of the trap. Trap can be no larger than 3' x 2' x 2' or equivalent.

Vessel and Gear Identification

Each trap must have a trap tag and a buoy or be attached to a trap trotline; all traps and buoys must have the trap number permanently affixed. Buoy numbers shall be at least 2" high. The buoy color and trap number must be displayed on boats working traps so as to be readily identifiable from both the air and water. Trap tags are issued by DNR at a cost of \$.50 per tag.

Size Restrictions

Spiny lobsters minimum size is more than 3" carapace or 5 1/2" tail measurement if separated from head. Separating the head from tail of lobster is prohibited in state waters.

Harvest Limitations

Egg bearing lobsters must be returned to the water unharmed. The stripping of eggs or removal of the pleopods from the lobster is prohibited. The bag limit during the 2-day recreational season is 6 spiny lobster per person per day in Monroe County only. A bag limit of 12 spiny lobster per person per day is allowed in all other areas during the 2-day recreational season.

Recreational bag limit during regular season is 6 lobsters per person or 24 per boat whichever is greater.

Traps worked during daylight hours only. The working of another's traps without written permission is prohibited.

FINFISH

Size and Possession Limits for Florida are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Amberjack	3		28 FL	
Blue fish	10		12 FL	
Black mullet	50		1	
Bonefish	1	1	18	
Clams	One (1) 5-gallon bucket per person or 2 per vessel whichever is less		1" thick at hinge	
Cobia	2		33 FL	
Flounder			11	
Grouper	5	5	20	
Mackerel				
King	2		20 FL	
Spanish	10		12	
Pompano			10 FL	
² Red drum	1	1	18	27
Sea bass			8	
³ Snapper	10	10	12	
⁴ Snook	2	2	24	1 over 34
Striped bass	6	6	15	
Spotted sea trout	10		14	1 over 24

Billfish	1	1		
Sailfish	1	1	57	
Blue marlin	1	1	86	
White marlin	1	1	62	
Black drum	5		14	1 over 24
⁵ Tarpon	2			
Weakfish	4	4	12	

¹Black mullet minimum length - 11" commercial size limit.

²Red drum closed season March, April and May.

³Red snapper 14", Schoolmaster 10", Gray 10" recreational and 12" commercial, Lane and Vermillion 8", all other Snapper 12". Red snapper bag limit - two (2) - commercial and recreational.

⁴Snook closed season December 15-January 31, June, July, and August

⁵Tarpon - a \$50.00 tarpon tag required to harvest or kill a tarpon.

SALTWATER NETS

No gill or entanglement nets allowed in state waters; see net limitation information following this section.

Licenses

All nets are required to be licensed with an SPL. SPL numbers must be attached to net.

Restrictions

Illegal Possession of Seines and Nets -- prohibits possession of any fishing seine or net in any county that the use is prohibited by law. Use of Purse Seines, Gill Nets and Pound Nets, etc. -- it is illegal to take food fish from within or without the waters of the state, with a purse seine, purse gill nets, or other net using rings or other devices on the lead line thereof, through which a purse line is drawn, or pound nets, or to take any food fish so taken for sale or shipment. Seines and Pocket Bunts -- in any county where seines are not prohibited on the open Gulf or Atlantic Ocean, such seines may have a pocket bunt on the middle of the seine of a mesh size less than that provided by law. No net may be pulled up on shore where seining is prohibited. Such nets may be gathered, taken in or taken up by power in the Gulf and Atlantic Ocean, except in Dade and Palm Beach Counties. A special activity license must be obtained for the use of gear and equipment for exploration of offshore fishery resources.

Each net fished with, set, or placed in the water shall be tended. Until May 1, 1994 in Nassau, Duval, and St. Johns Counties only, the requirements of this subsection shall not apply to any person fishing with, setting, or placing a net seaward of the Colregs Demarcation Line during the period beginning January 1 and continuing through April 30 of each year.

Each net fished with, set, or placed in the water shall be marked in the following manner: (a) During the period beginning one hour before official sunrise and ending one hour after official sunset, an international orange float with a diameter of at least 12" or an end buoy equipped with a high flier (a vertical rod rising at least 24" above the surface of the water) displaying a net signal flag shall be affixed at each end of the cork line of the net. The net signal flag shall be triangular, have dimensions no smaller than 12" x 18" x 18", and have a white circle at least 6" in diameter on a field of bright orange. During the period beginning one hour after official sunset and ending one hour before official sunrise, a white light visible 360° from a distance of not less than one mile shall be affixed at each end of the cork line of the net. If one end of a net is retained aboard the vessel during a fishing operation, such end need not be marked with float, high flier with net signal flag, or light. At all times, corks or floats of contrasting color shall be affixed at no greater than 100-yard intervals along the cork line of the net. (b) Each such float, high flier with net signal flag, light, and cork or float of contrasting color shall be legibly marked with a saltwater products license number which matches either: (1) the saltwater products license number issued for the vessel on which the net is possessed or from which the net is deployed, or (2) the saltwater products license number of the operator of the vessel on which the net is possessed or from which the net is deployed.

The term "tend" means that the person fishing with, setting, or placing the net in the water is either: (1) within 300 yards of the net and using vessel movement and noise to force fish into the meshes of the net where they become entangled or trapped; or (2) within 50 yards of the net if the vessel used is not in constant motion; or (3) physically present at the net if the net is fished from shore or from a structure attached to shore. The term "net" shall be construed broadly to include all manner of gill and trammel nets and seines, except purse seines. This rule shall not apply to person using gill and trammel nets in the waters of Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties, which person shall comply with Rule 46-4.007. This rule shall apply to persons using seines in these counties. This rule shall not be construed to allow net fishing in closed areas or the use of any fishing gear otherwise prohibited by law or rule.

Use of Seine Nets in St. Johns County -- Only cast nets or recreational nets can be used in the saltwaters of St. Johns County and within 1/4 mile seaward of the beaches and coast, between May 1 and September 15 of each year and only cast nets and recreational nets can be used on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays during the remainder of the year.

Only cast nets can be used in the following areas of St. Johns County and adjacent saltwaters: 1) 1 mile radius of the center of Mantanzas Inlet Bridge. 2) In the waters of Salt Run, St. Augustine Inlet, Mantanzas River, North River or the ICW, or water adjacent to any of the aforementioned waters, lying north of Mickler-O'Connell Bridge, South of Vilano Beach Bridge across the ICW and inland of a line drawn from headland to headland across the mouth of St. Augustine Inlet. 3) On the Atlantic Ocean beaches and beach areas, within 1 mile north and south of the center of St. Augustine Inlet, and within 1 mile seaward of such beaches, and a line drawn from headland to headland across the mouth of the St. Augustine Inlet. 4) On the Atlantic Ocean beaches and beach areas, within 2 miles north and 2 miles south of the center of St. Augustine Beach Pier, and within 1 mile seaward of such beaches and beach areas.

The use of seines is prohibited in the salt waters of St. Johns County, within 1 mile seaward of the beaches and coast, exceeding 1300' in length or having mesh less than 2 1/2". Only recreational nets can be used in the salt waters of St. Johns County or within 1 mile seaward of the Atlantic Ocean beaches and coast without a \$250.00 permit. Such permit entitles the holder to use no more than one seine or net at any time. Said permit required to be in the holder's possession when the net is in use.

Recreational Nets - In St. Johns County a seine or similar net not exceeding 100' in length, with mesh not smaller than 2 1/2" set and hauled solely by hand and without use of any motor-driven boat or vehicle. No recreational net may be set or hauled within 100' of any other recreational or commercial net. Prohibits the use of a recreational net after sunset or before sunrise between May 1 and September 15. Only one container of fish per net in use can be retained by the holder of a permit. All fish in excess and all unwanted species shall be returned alive to the water when caught.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

Resident Retail Seafood Dealer

Primary Location - \$25.00

Secondary Location - \$10.00

Non-resident Retail Seafood Dealer

Primary Location - \$200.00

Secondary Location - \$25.00

Alien Retail Seafood Dealer

Primary Location - \$250.00

Secondary Location - \$50.00

Resident County Wholesale Seafood Dealer - \$300.00

Non-resident County Wholesale Seafood Dealer - \$500.00

Alien County Wholesale Seafood Dealer - \$1000.00

Resident State Wholesale Dealer - \$450.00

Non-resident State Wholesale Dealer - \$1000.00

Alien State Wholesale Dealer - \$1500.00

Note: Since local regulations governing the taking of saltwater products may exist, you should contact the Marine Patrol District Office nearest the location where you will be engaging in these activities for additional information.

FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE X, SECTION 16

LIMITING MARINE NET FISHING

- (a) The marine resources of the State of Florida belong to all of the people of the state and should be conserved and managed for the benefit of the state, its people, and future generations. To this end the people hereby enact limitations on marine net fishing in Florida waters to protect saltwater finfish, shellfish, and other marine animals from unnecessary killing, overfishing and waste.
- (b) For the purpose of catching or taking any saltwater finfish, shellfish or other marine animals in Florida waters:
 - (1) No gill nets or other entangling nets shall be used in any Florida waters; and
 - (2) In addition to the prohibition set forth in (1), no other type of net containing more than 500 square feet of mesh area shall be used in nearshore and inshore Florida waters. Additionally, no more than two such nets, which shall not be connected, shall be used from any vessel, and no person not on a vessel shall use more than one such net in nearshore and inshore Florida waters.
- (c) For purposes of this section:
 - (1) "gill net" means one or more walls of netting which captures saltwater finfish by ensnaring or entangling them in the meshes of the net by the gills, and "entangling net" means a drift net, trammel net, stab net, or any other net which captures saltwater finfish, shellfish, or other marine animals by causing all or part of heads, fins, legs, or other body parts to become entangled or ensnared in the meshes of the net, but a hand thrown cast net is not a gill net or an entangling net;
 - (2) "mesh area" of a net means the total area of netting with the meshes open to comprise the maximum square footage. The square footage shall be calculated using standard mathematical formulas for geometric shapes. Seines and other rectangular nets shall be calculated using the maximum length and maximum width of the netting. Trawls and other bag type nets shall be calculated as a cone using the maximum circumference of the net mouth to derive the radius, and the maximum length from the net

mouth to the tail end of the net to derive the slant height. Calculations for any other nets or combination type nets shall be based on the shapes of the individual components;

- (3) "coastline " means the territorial sea base line for the State of Florida established pursuant to the laws of the United States of America;
 - (4) "Florida waters" means the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Florida, and any other bodies of water under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, whether coastal, intracoastal or inland, and any part thereof; and
 - (5) "nearshore and inshore Florida waters" means all Florida waters inside a line three miles seaward of the coastline along the Gulf of Mexico and inside a line one mile seaward of the coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.
- (d) This section shall not apply to the use of nets for scientific research or governmental purposes.
- (e) Persons violating this section shall be prosecuted and punished pursuant to the penalties provide in section 370.021(2)(a),(b),(c)6. and 7., and (e), Florida Statutes (1991), unless and until the legislature enacts more stringent penalties for violations hereof. On and after the effective date of this section, law enforcement officers in the state are authorized to enforce the provisions of this section in the same manner and authority as if a violation of this section constituted a violation of Chapter 370, Florida Statutes (1991).
- (f) It is the intent of this section that implementing legislation is not required for enforcing any violations hereof, but nothing in this section prohibits the establishment by law or pursuant to law of more restrictions on the use of nets for the purpose of catching or taking any saltwater finfish, shellfish, or other marine animals.
- (g) If any portion of this section is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this section, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void portion and given the fullest possible force and application.
- (h) This section shall take effect on the July 1 next occurring after approval hereof by vote of the electors. (July 1, 1995)

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LOUISIANA

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Louisiana. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1995, but changes may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000 (504/765-2985).

SHRIMP

Commercial Licenses

All Commercial Shrimp Fishermen must purchase the following licenses:

Commercial Fisherman
Resident - \$55.00
Non-resident - \$400.00

Vessel
Resident - \$15.00
Non-resident - \$60.00

Gear
Resident Shrimp Trawl - \$25.00 per trawl
Non-resident Shrimp Trawl - \$100.00 per trawl
Resident Butterfly - \$25.00 per net
Non-resident Butterfly - \$100.00 per net
Resident Skimmer Net - \$25.00 per net
Non-resident Skimmer Net - \$100.00 per net

No fee is required for use of a test trawl when used with another trawl for which the gear fee has been paid, maximum test trawl length is 16' cork line - 20' lead line.

Recreational License

Shrimp trawls 16' or less may be licensed recreationally; shrimp trawls in excess of 16' must be licensed commercially. 100 pounds, heads on, per boat, per day is the maximum limit.

Gear types and fees are as follows:

Shrimp Trawls (resident) - \$25.00 per trawl not exceeding 16' in length.
Shrimp Trawls (non-resident) - \$100.00 per trawl not exceeding 16' in length.

You must possess a basic sports fishing license to use a recreational gear license unless exempt by age. Recreational fishermen with a basic sports fishing license may use a cast net up to 8 1/2' in radius and take up to 50 pounds of shrimp per day per boat for bait purposes only.

Commercial Season

In state inside waters, the Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year based upon biological and technical data. No open season shall begin on a Sunday. In state outside waters, season will be set by the Commission based upon biological and technical data.

Recreational Season

Same as commercial season.

Commercial Gear Limitations

By definition a trawl means any net, generally funnel-shaped, pulled through the water or along the bottom with otter boards to spread the mouth open while being fished. The term "trawl" also means and includes plumb staff beam trawls that do not exceed sixteen feet, that do not use otter boards but are held open laterally by a horizontal beam and vertically by two vertical beams (plumb staffs), and that are used while the vessel is underway. No vessel may pull more than the following trawl rigging in inside waters. (A) One trawl which shall not exceed 50' in length along the corkline and 66' along the lead line and in addition, one test trawl; (B) two trawls each of which shall not exceed 25' along the corkline, 33' feet along the lead line, and have trawl doors no larger than 6' in length and 34" in height and in addition, one test trawl; (C) two trawls which shall not exceed 25' along the corkline, 33' along the lead line and have no more than two outer trawl doors no larger than 8' in length and 40" in height and no more than two inner sled doors, and in addition, one test trawl. It shall be legal for a vessel in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds to pull no more than one or two trawls, either or both of which cannot exceed 65' along the corkline and 82" along the lead line in length, plus one test trawl. Saltwater shrimp may be taken by means of trawls, butterfly nets, skimmer nets, or cast nets and by no other means except as provided in R.S. 56:497(B) and R.S. 56:571. No person shall take saltwater shrimp with any trawl, skimmer net or butterfly net with a mesh size less than 5/8" square or 1 1/4" stretched. No trawl, skimmer net, or butterfly net may be used in closed waters. No person shall use a double butterfly net having an individual net frame more than 12' measured horizontally or vertically, whichever distance is greater, each or a single stationary butterfly net having an individual net frame greater than 22' measured horizontally or vertically, whichever distance is greater, except that persons on a vessel may use a double butterfly

net having individual net frames of not more than 16' measured horizontally or 12' measured vertically, each. No person on a vessel shall use a double skimmer net having an individual net frame more than 16' measured horizontally or 12' measured vertically, or with a lead line measuring more than 28' for each net. No person shall tie individual skimmer nets together to exceed the herein stated specifications. Operation of butterfly and skimmer nets shall in no way impede or restrict normal navigation. No person shall use sweeper devices, leads, extensions, wings, or other attachments in conjunction with or attached to butterfly nets. Skimmer nets and butterfly nets may be mounted no more than 24" from side of vessel.

Recreational and Commercial Gear Limitations

Trawls must be 16' or less in length measured along the corkline. Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8" bar or 1 1/4" stretched. Mesh size during the fall inshore shrimp season shall be not less than 3/4" square x 1 1/2" stretched.

Commercial Legal Size

You may not catch or possess aboard a vessel saltwater white shrimp that average more than 100 per pound, unless you have legal documentation that they were taken in another state or country. During the time period from October 15 through the third Monday in December there shall be no count on saltwater white shrimp taken or possessed. There are no count restrictions on any shrimp during the spring open season. There are no count restrictions on sea bobs taken in state outside waters during any season. There are no count restrictions on bait shrimp.

Recreational Legal Size

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp apply.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

100 pounds per day per vessel with use of a shrimp trawl not exceeding 16'.

LIVE BAIT

Licenses

Live bait dealers are controlled by commission action. Persons allowed to take live shrimp for sale during closed season between the spring and fall seasons as bait must have a proper licenses and post \$1,000 bond with LDWF.

Persons desiring to catch their own bait may catch shrimp with cast nets (up to 8 1/2' in radius), bait traps, dip nets (up to 3' diameter and hand operated), seines (less than 100' and foot operated). A basic sports fishing license is required to take bait with a cast net.

Season

During the closed seasons, bait shrimp may be taken in state inside waters, but only with cast nets up to 8 1/2' in radius, bait traps, dip nets (diameter of no more than 3' and hand operated) or seines less than 100 feet in length with no mechanical devices.

Gear

Trawls cannot have a mesh size less than 5/8" bar or 1 1/4" stretched. However, during closed seasons when seine nets are used, the bait seine must be 1/4" mesh or less. Permitted trawls cannot exceed 25' in length. Mesh size during all inshore season shall be not less than 3/4" square or 1 1/2" stretched.

Legal Size

No restrictions.

Pounds Allowed

No dead shrimp allowed in possession while trawling and operating under permit; dead shrimp may be sold at place of business in lots not exceeding 48 ounces for bait only.

Restrictions

During the closed season, no bait shrimp may be taken in state waters with a butterfly net or trawl. A qualified bait dealer may get a special permit to take bait shrimp with a trawl not larger than 25' during the closed season between the spring and fall seasons.

SHELLFISH - CRABS

Recreational Licenses

Special qualifications exist to obtain a commercial crab license.

Resident Recreational Crab Trap - \$10.00 -- Required for use of no more than 10 traps.

Non-resident Recreational Crab Trap - \$40.00 -- Required for use of no more than 10 traps.

Resident Recreational Crab Trap - Attached to a trotline (up to 10 traps) - \$1.00/trap

Non-resident Recreational Crab Trap - Attached to a trotline (up to 10 traps) - \$4.00/trap

You must possess a basic sports fishing license to use a recreational gear license unless exempt for age. Recreational harvest of crabs using a dipnet and/or baited lines (without hooks or traps) does not require a license.

Commercial Licenses

- Resident Commercial Crab Trap - Attached to a trotline (up to 25 traps) - \$1.00/trap
- Non-resident Commercial Crab Trap - Attached to a trotline (up to 25 traps) - \$4.00/trap
- Resident Commercial Crab Trap/Dropnet Gear License - \$25.00
- Non-resident Commercial Crab Trap/Dropnet Gear License - \$100.00
- Resident Commercial Fisherman License - \$55.00
- Non-Resident Commercial Fisherman License - \$400.00
- Resident Vessel License - \$15.00
- Non-Resident Vessel License - \$60.00.
- Resident Soft-Shell Crab Shedder License - \$100.00
- Non-Resident Soft-Shell Crab Shedder License - \$400.00

A license to shed soft-shell crabs may only be purchased by a licensed commercial fisherman or wholesale/retail dealer.
A commercial fisherman's license and vessel license are required for commercial fishing in saltwater in addition to any required gear license.

Restrictions

Taking adult female crabs in the so-called berry stage (or with eggs attached) is strictly prohibited, and if caught must be returned to the waters alive.

Commercial Legal Size

Hardshell blue crabs must be 5" in width, crabs less than 5 inches in width may be taken for the purpose of producing soft crabs only and must be held separately from those crabs of legal size and shall be identified as busters or peelers.

Recreational Legal Size

There are no minimum size restrictions for recreational crabbers.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS

Licenses

- Resident Recreational Oyster Tong (per tong) - \$5.00
- Non-resident Recreational Oyster Tong (per tong) - \$20.00
- You must possess a basic sport fishing license to use a recreational gear license, unless exempt for age.
- Resident Commercial Oyster Tong (per tong) - \$30.00
- Non-resident Commercial Oyster Tong (per tong) - \$240.00
- Resident Commercial Oyster Dredge (per dredge) - \$25.00
- Non-resident Commercial Oyster Dredge (per dredge) - \$200.00
- Resident Commercial Oyster Harvester - \$100.00
- Non-resident Commercial Oyster Harvester - \$400.00
- Resident Commercial Fisherman - \$55.00
- Non-resident Commercial Fisherman - \$400.00
- Resident Vessel License - \$15.00
- Non-resident Vessel License - \$60.00
- Out-of-State Oyster Landing Permit - \$100.00

The licensed commercial fisherman harvesting or possessing oysters in state waters must purchase an oyster harvester license, in addition to any and all licenses otherwise required.

Seasons

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission designates when natural reefs are open for fishing; generally, natural reefs may be fished from the first Wednesday after Labor Day through April 1 of the next year. Some consideration for an extension can be made to May 10 depending on supply. The owner of an oyster lease, or his designee, with written permission, may fish oysters at any time of year on their lease. Areas opened by the Commission may, however, be closed by the Department of Health and Hospitals for health reasons. It is illegal to take oysters at night.

Size/Possession Limits

All oysters taken from natural reefs must be 3" or greater in length from hinge to mouth. A lessee of private oyster grounds may be permitted to take undersized oysters for bedding purposes only (under special regulations).

Not more than ten 1 1/2-bushel sacks per boat per day may be taken from Calcasieu and Sabine Lakes (in the event of a closure of the open season for more than seven days, 15 1 1/2-bushel sacks per boat per day may be taken for three consecutive calendar days following reopening). Unlimited elsewhere for commercial purposes. Recreational fishermen may take one sack per person if oysters are taken for personal consumption.

Oysters may be taken from public oyster beds by dredges, scrapers, and tongs. Dredges and scrapers used shall be no larger than 6' in width measured along the tooth bar. The dredge teeth shall be no longer than 5" in length and there shall be no more than seven dredges in use on any one vessel.

Any person who qualifies and who desires to lease a part of the bottom of any state waters shall present to the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a written application and cash deposit of such amount as determined by the department. Lessees, under the supervision of the department, shall stake off and mark the leased water bottoms in order to locate accurately and fix the limits of the water bottoms embraced by each lease. Areas shall also be prominently marked with signs which state the lease number and name or initials of the lessee.

Restrictions

No person shall trawl or seine over any privately leased bedding grounds or oyster propagating place which is staked off, marked, or posted as required by law or regulation.

Culling oysters, which is the act of discarding undersized oysters or dead shell, shall be performed only on the open designated public grounds or on private leases on which the fisherman is authorized to take oysters. At no time will the act of culling oysters be permitted in areas closed to harvesting oysters.

Oysters may only be landed out of state by lease holders from privately leased areas with a permit to do so.

FINFISH

Recreational Size and Possession Limits for Louisiana are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Speckled trout	25	25	12	
Red drum	5	5	16	1 over 27
Cobia	2	2	37	
Black drum	5	5	16	1 over 27
Red snapper**	5	5	15	
King mackerel*	2	2	14	
Spanish mackerel	10	10	14	
Queen, mutton ¹ , schoolmaster, blackfin, cubera, gray ¹ , dog mahogany, silk, yellowtail snappers ¹ and wenchman**	10 (in aggregate)	10*	¹ 12	
All grouper**	5 (in aggregate)	5*		
Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper			20	
Lane and vermilion snapper	No limit	No limit	8	
Jewfish	Harvest prohibited			
Greater amberjack**	3		28 FL	
Black seabass	No limit	No limit	8	
Mullet	100 pounds per person year round			

*Charter vessels and headboats are allowed two daily bag limits on multi-day trips under two conditions: 1) the vessel has two licensed operators as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips of over 12 hours; and 2) each passenger has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

**Charter vessels and headboats permitted by the NMFS under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fishes are allowed two daily bag limits under conditions described above.

Commercial Size and Possession Limits for Louisiana are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Speckled trout*			14	
Sheepshead			10	
Black drum**			16	
Spanish mackerel			14	
King mackerel			14	
Red snapper			14	
Gray, mutton, yellowtail snapper			12	
Lane and vermillion snapper			8	
Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper			20	
Jewfish	Harvest prohibited			
Cobia	2	2	37	
Greater amberjack			36 FL	
Mullet				
Bowfin			22	

*Annual harvest quota of 1 million pounds.

**Fishermen required to possess a special "Black Drum" permit in order to harvest fish greater than 27" TL.

***Fishermen fishing shark must obtain a permit.

****Fishermen must possess a Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Permit to commercially harvest reef fish.

Recreational Licenses

Residents and non-residents under 16 years of age and residents 60 years of age and older, who have resided within the state for 2 years prior to application, shall not be required to obtain licenses, permits, or pay fees to fish recreationally. Proof of age must be carried on person.

A recreational gear license is required of all persons using recreational gear, no exemptions except for certain military personnel as stated below.

Persons in the armed forces of the U.S. and their resident dependents shall, for license purposes, be allowed to purchase and use resident licenses.

Any citizen of the state of Louisiana on active duty in the armed forces of the U.S. and who is assigned to an active duty post located outside the state of Louisiana shall not be required to obtain a license (including recreational gear license) or pay a fee to fish while visiting the state, provided that he has in his possession proper written evidence that his absence from his active duty assignment is authorized.

Veterans having a permanent service connected disability classification of 50% or more and who are Louisiana residents or resident persons who are blind, paraplegic, or multiple amputees shall upon identification and proof of disability satisfactory to the department, be issued sports licenses without the payment of any fees thereof. Any resident who is a single amputee shall upon identification and proof of disability satisfactory to the department, be issued a basic and saltwater fishing license without the payment of any fees thereof.

All other Resident recreational fishermen shall purchase an annual Basic Fishing License for \$5.50. Licenses are available on May 1 and expire on June 30 of the following year. All other non-residents must purchase a Basic Fishing License for \$31.00 for the period from May 1 through June 30 or a basic 7-day license for \$26.00.

Additional Licenses

Resident Hook and Line License - \$2.50

Resident Saltwater License - \$5.50

Non-resident Saltwater License - \$36.00
 Non-resident Saltwater - 7 Day - \$26.00
 Non-resident Combo - 2 Day - \$23.00 (No need for Basic Fishing License)
 Non-resident Basic Fish Trip - 3 Day - \$10.00

Recreational gear licenses required in addition to the basic fishing license:

Resident Hoop Nets (up to 5) - \$20.00
 Non-resident Hoop Nets (up to 5) - \$80.00
 Resident Slat Traps (up to 5) - \$20.00
 Non-resident Slat Traps (up to 5) - \$80.00

Lifetime Licenses:

Resident Basic and Saltwater - \$300.00
 Resident Basic and Saltwater (under 14 years of age) - \$200.00
 Resident Combination Fishing and Hunting - \$500.00
 Resident Combination Fishing and Hunting (under 14) - \$300.00
 Non-resident Combination Hunting and Fishing - \$3,000.00

Sailfish, blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, hatchet marlin, white marlin and red drum are game fish in Louisiana and may not be offered for sale.

All saltwater finfish except tuna, garfish, swordfish and sharks possessed by recreational fishermen shall have the head and caudal fin intact when set or put on shore from a vessel. Bowfin eggs (roe) that are not naturally connected to a whole fish cannot be possessed by fishermen, while on the water. All tuna, garfish, swordfish, and sharks possessed by a recreational fisherman shall not be skinned or scaled until set or put on shore from a vessel.

OTHER COMMERCIAL FISHING

Licenses

A commercial fisherman taking fish, including bait species, from state waters or possessing fish in the state must purchase a commercial fisherman's license. It is unlawful for the owner of a licensed commercial fishing vessel to permit any person not holding a valid, original commercial fisherman's license to operate such licensed vessel while the vessel is engaged in commercial fishing or while in possession of fish for sale in the waters of the state. Violation subjects the vessel owner to revocation of license and seizure of the vessel and all fish and equipment aboard. Helpers or persons assisting, or engaged in, operations while aboard commercial fishing vessels need not have a commercial fisherman's license in his name as long as the captain or owner of the vessel while aboard the vessel has in his name a valid and original commercial fisherman's license. Any commercial fisherman selling to anyone other than a resident wholesale/retail dealer shall, on or before the 10th of each month, make a return to the department on forms provided or approved for the purpose, showing in detail the quantity of each kind of fish sold during the preceding month. Only one commercial fisherman's license is required for each menhaden seine being used to take menhaden or other herring-like fish.

A commercial fisherman must possess a valid and original commercial gear license whenever using or possessing such gear on the fishing grounds. In the event more than one gear type is in possession on the fishing grounds a gear license for each gear type must be in possession. A gear license is required for each piece of gear or each type of gear in use or in possession, whichever is applicable. It is unlawful for a commercial gear licensee to permit a person not holding a valid, original commercial fisherman's license to use gear under privilege of the commercial gear license. Violation subjects the commercial gear licensee to revocation of the commercial gear license and seizure of gear.

A vessel must be licensed whenever engaged in commercial fishing or whenever possessing fish for sale in the saltwater areas of the state. Vessel licenses are issued in the name of the owner (person having legal ownership of the vessel; includes association, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity) of the vessel and shall list the owner's name and address, the vessel name and registration or documentation number, and any other information required by the department.

Other Commercial Licenses	Resident	Non-resident
Commercial Fisherman	\$ 55.00	\$ 400.00
Hoop Net	25.00	100.00
Freshwater Gill Net	25.00	100.00
Trammel Net	25.00	100.00
Fish Seine	25.00	100.00
Slat Trap	25.00	100.00
Purse/Menhaden	505.00	2020.00

Saltwater Gill Net	250.00	1000.00
Vessel	15.00	60.00
Minnow Trap	25.00	100.00
Cans, Buckets, Pipes, Drums, Tires	25.00	100.00
Spear Gun	25.00	100.00
Mullet Permit	100.00	400.00
Set Line (Trot, Bush, Long, etc.)	25.00	100.00
Dip/Cast Net	25.00	100.00
Flounder Gig	25.00	100.00
Eel Pots	25.00	100.00
Reptile & Amphibian Collector	25.00	200.00
Reptile & Amphibian Collector (under 16 years of age)	10.00	N/A
Crawfish Traps	25.00	100.00

Restrictions

Passage of new legislation has implemented strict requirements to enter the commercial net fisheries for finfish. Gear restrictions, special permits, seasons, times, and methods of taking commercial finfish have recently taken place. For information about the commercial finfish fishery, contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division.

No commercial gear license for gill nets and purse seines shall be issued to any non-resident whose domiciliary state prohibits the use of those nets in commercial fishing. It is illegal to use or employ any aircraft including fixed wing aircraft, dirigibles, balloons, helicopters, or any other form of aerial surveillance in the airspace of this state to assist in the taking of finfish except in the fisheries of menhaden and herring-like fish.

Mesh size of hoop nets must be at least 1" square or 2" stretched after treating with tar or copper. The use of monofilament for any type net is prohibited in saltwater areas of the state. The use of purse seines is prohibited in inside waters. The use of purse seines is prohibited except for taking of menhaden and herring-like species. It is illegal to enter state waters with purse seine and speckled trout or red drum on same vessel.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

- Resident Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer - \$105.00
- Resident Reptile & Amphibian Transport License - \$30.00
- Non-resident Reptile & Amphibian Transport License - \$120.00
- Non-resident Reptile & Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer - \$405.00
- Resident Wholesale/Retail Dealer Vehicle or Business- \$105.00
- Non-resident Wholesale/Retail Dealer Vehicle or Business - \$405.00
- Resident Wholesale/Retail Dealer - Restaurants and Retail Grocers Only - \$30.00
- Transport License - \$30.00
- Resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (up to 6 passengers) - \$250.00
- Non-resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (up to 6 passengers) - \$1000.00
- Resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (over 6 passengers) - \$500.00
- Non-resident Charter Boat Fishing Guide (over 6 passengers) - \$2000.00

Note: Reptile and Amphibian Transport License can only be purchased by an in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Reptile and Amphibian Collector's License or a Reptile and Amphibian Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Transport licenses can only be purchased by and in the name of a person holding a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License or Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License. Persons operating under a transport license are prohibited from buying and selling, by any means whatsoever, any species of fish, except when a person transporting fish under the privilege of a Louisiana transport license purchased in connection with a Louisiana wholesale/retail dealer's license buys fish for or on behalf of the wholesale/retail dealer to whom such transport license was issued and only transports such fish to that wholesale/retail dealer. Transport licenses are freely transferable between vehicles.

MISSISSIPPI

The following is an unofficial compilation of marine laws and regulations for Mississippi. It was compiled by enforcement personnel of the Gulf States specifically for their information and convenience. The information is current as of September 30, 1995, but change may occur at any time. For definitive enforcement regulations contact Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Marine Law Enforcement, 298 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530 (601/432-7708).

SHRIMP

Commercial License

Shrimp Boat under 30' - \$50.00
Shrimp Boat 30'-45' - \$75.00
Shrimp Boat over 45' - \$100.00
Captain's License - \$10.00

A resident of another state will be charged the same fee for a license as a Mississippi resident would be charged for a license in that state.

Recreational License

Resident - \$15.00

Commercial Season

Trawling is prohibited north of the Intracoastal Waterway (tugboat channel) after sunset of December 31, except by licensed live bait dealers. Shrimp season is officially opened by public notice at such a time that the Department of Marine Resources has determined that the shrimp have reached legal size (statistically probable in the second week of June).

Additionally, the area south of the Intracoastal Waterway will be closed after April 30 of each year and prior to the opening of the season for shrimp.

Recreational Season

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp apply.

Commercial Gear Limitations

Shrimp may be taken in any manner south of a line formed by the barrier islands of Cat, Ship, Horn and Petit Bois. North of this line (within Mississippi Sound) shrimp may only be taken with a single net measuring no larger than 50' along the headrope and 60' along the footrope or not more than 2 nets, each measuring no more than 25' on the headrope and 32' on the footrope. A test (or try) trawl no larger than 12' along the headrope and 15' along the footrope used with boards not more than 30' in length is permitted.

In addition, the wings of push-nets (chopsticks) may not be attached to the rigid supports or poles for a distance greater than 24' on each side.

No saltboxes may be used for either recreational or commercial shrimpers. Saltbox shall mean any container or similar device in which the salinity is greater than one hundred (100) parts per thousand and is used to aid in separating the shrimp from the bycatch.

Recreational Gear Limitations

Holders of a recreational shrimping license are limited to the use of a single net measuring no larger than 16' on the cork line. Persons catching shrimp with cast or brail nets shall not remove the heads of the shrimp on site. Cast or brail nets cannot exceed 12' maximum radius or length.

Commercial Legal Size

Shrimp smaller than 68-count are not to be taken.

Recreational Legal Size

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp apply.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

No limit.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

No limit. Limit of 50 pounds when caught by cast or brail nets.

LIVE BAIT

Licenses

Live Bait Dealer - \$50.00
Live Bait Boat - \$100.00
Captain's License - \$10.00 (required for a live bait license holder)

Written application for live bait licenses must be made to the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources between January 1 and April 30 preceding the license year.

Season

Live bait trawling is permitted only during the hours between 30 minutes before sunrise and ending at sunset; areas are not opened to live bait shrimp until shrimp average at least 100 count.

Gear

Trawls cannot be larger than 16' on the headrope and 22' on the footrope, except areas west of Bayou Caddy where trawls may be 25' on the headrope and 32' on the footrope.

Legal Size

Shrimp of 100-count to the pound are the minimum legal size for licensed live bait dealers.

Pounds Allowed

No more than 30 pounds of dead shrimp allowed on board at any time.

Restrictions

Live bait dealers must mark their boats with the words "LIVE BAIT" in letters no smaller than 6" high on both the port and starboard sides of the boat. The name of the bait camp must be similarly displayed on the boat and transport vehicle. Fish caught coincidental to a live bait operation may be retained and sold for chum; however, if crabs are to be kept, the dealer is also required to hold a valid Mississippi Crab License. Fish retained must be of legal size. Live bait camps must meet the following special requirements: each camp must have adequate holding and aerating systems which must be cleaned of dead shrimp at least every 12 hours; no bulk sales of dead shrimp are permitted; dead shrimp may be sold only with heads on and in containers of 16 oz. No more than 5 16 oz. containers may be sold to an individual in one day. Someone must be readily available to serve customers during appropriate hours and each live bait-dealer application must include these hours, at least eight per 24 hour period.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS AND CLAMS

License Requirements

Tonging - \$50.00

Dredging - \$100.00

Recreational (Residents Only) - \$10.00

Seasons

Season is regulated by Legal Notice of the Commission on Marine Resources, and notice thereof will be duly published in local newspapers and released to both the radio and television media. During open season, oysters may be taken only during daylight hours.

Gear

Oysters may be taken by any of the traditional methods of oystering in the state of Mississippi, that is, by hand (cooning), with tongs, or by using a hand dredge. Dredges for oystering may not exceed 115 pounds in weight nor may they have in excess of 16 teeth. Restrictions on the maximum number of dredges carried will be established seasonally by the Commission on Marine Resources.

Size Limits

Oysters taken in state waters must be at least 3" long from hing to bill. At times, however, the Department of Marine Resources may decrease this limit upon Public Notice to that effect.

Limits

Recreational and commercial catch limits are set annually.

Leases

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources conducts a program of oyster leasing. Any resident of the state may lease state waterbottoms for the purpose of oyster culture. Oysters taken from private lease areas must be so designated by tags indicating the official leased number issued by the DMR.

Restrictions

Oysters may be taken only from those waters approved for shellfish harvest by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The harvesting, shucking, processing and sale of oysters must also conform to all regulations specified by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Following heavy rains, natural reefs and leased areas may be temporarily closed. Such closures are published in local newspapers and released to local television and radio media. Oysters taken from state waters must be tagged. These tags are issued by the DMR at officially designated check-in, check-out stations. These stations will be identified in the opening order for oyster season. Both commercial and recreational oystermen must check in at the designated check station before going to reefs and must check out at the same station. Station hours are from 7 am to 4 pm during harvest. Both recreational and commercial harvesters must purchase a license from the DMR. Tags are issued at the time of inspection. Each tag must be completed with the catcher's name, date caught, area caught and the shell-stock dealer's name and identification number if the oysters are to be sold. Oysters taken from other than state waters must be

accompanied by a Bill of Lading indicating the point of origin. Oysters taken for personal consumption must also be inspected; and a tag will be issued for each sack. Such tags will identify that the contents are not to be sold.

SHELLFISH - CRABS

Licenses

Commercial Crabbing - \$75.00

Restrictions

Crabs may also be taken by trawl; however, the trawl must not exceed the maximum allowable dimensions specified for shrimp and must comply with all other regulations governing the use of a trawl. All crabs incidentally caught in trawls must be immediately returned to the water unless the boat operator holds a valid state crab fishing license. Crab pots or traps must be visibly marked with the license number of the owner or a registered color code on the buoy. A crab trap float line must be of material easily cut with a knife. All egg-bearing crabs caught south of the Intracoastal Waterway between the Gulfport Ship Channel and the MS/AL state line must be immediately returned to the water. It shall be unlawful to have any sponge crabs (egg-bearing crabs, except for those taken legally in another state) from March 1 to June 30 of each year. All sponge crabs shall immediately be returned to the water alive during this period. It is illegal to remove crabs from traps for which one is not specifically licensed. A valid crabbing license must be obtained when using in excess of six crab traps or whenever crabs caught are to be offered for sale. Licensed recreational crabbers may have an additional ten crab traps, if the additional traps are used solely within the crabbers' riparian rights and are attached to piers, pilings or other permanent structures.

Legal Size

All crabs (except for peeler crabs and soft-shell crabs) must be larger than 5" measured from the tip of one lateral spine across the back of the shell to the tip of the opposite lateral spine.

FINFISH

Commercial Size and Possession Limits for Mississippi are as follows:

Species	Daily Bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Red drum	Quota*	Quota*	18 TL	1 over 30 TL
Spotted seatrout	Quota**	Quota**	14 TL	
Mullet	No Limit	No Limit	10 TL	
Cobia***	2	2	37 TL	
Spanish mackerel			14 FL	
Red snapper	No Limit	No Limit	14 TL	

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell, offer for sale, barter, trade or purchase any red drum smaller than the minimum legal length established in Mississippi for red drum or red drum taken from the waters of the state of Mississippi during a closed commercial season for red drum. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell, offer for sale, barter, trade or purchase any red drum landed legally elsewhere and/or transported into or within the state of Mississippi.

*There is a 35,000 lb annual commercial quota.

**There is a 40,000 lb limit.

***No commercial sale of cobia is allowed.

Saltwater fishermen cannot use multiple-point hooks (i.e., treble hooks) when fishing with live, dead, or cut bait.

Recreational Size and Possession Limits for Mississippi are as follows:

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
Red drum*	3	3	18 TL	1 over 30 TL
Spotted seatrout	10	10	14 TL	No Limit

Cobia **	2	2	37 TL	No Limit
King mackerel	2	2***	20 FL	No Limit
Red snapper	5	5	15 TL	

*The sale, offering for sale, purchase, barter or trade of red drum caught by saltwater sports fishermen is prohibited.

**The sale of cobia is prohibited.

***Recreational fishermen fishing in charter boats can possess no more than 2 king mackerel per person on board, or no more than 3 fish per angler, exclusive of captain and crew, whichever is greater, for a single days catch.

Saltwater sportfishermen not fishing in the waters of the state of Mississippi may transport and land spotted seatrout and red drum with size limits less than those above, provided such fish were legally taken in the waters under the jurisdiction of a state adjoining Mississippi and meet that state's minimum size requirements. Said saltwater sportfishermen must possess a valid saltwater sportfishing license as may be required in the state where the fish were caught. In the absence of minimum size requirements in an adjoining jurisdiction, Mississippi law will prevail.

SALTWATER NETS

Licenses

Resident Recreational (Hook and Line) - \$4.00*

Resident Gill & Trammel Net - \$100.00

Resident Charter, Party, or Commercial Hook and Line - \$100.00

Resident Menhaden Boat/Net - \$150.00

*Valid for recreational hook and line fishing south of U.S. Interstate Highway 10. Saltwater sport fishermen are not permitted to sell, barter, trade, or offer for sale any saltwater fish caught or landed in Mississippi.

Restrictions

Saltwater finfish may be taken from Mississippi waters by any of the following methods: hook and line, trotline, throwline, spear, gig, bow and arrow, cast net, and brail nets (less than 12' maximum radius; no freshwater species may be in possession while using cast or brail net), small-mesh beach seine (under 100' in length and with a maximum 1/4" bar), brill net, shrimp trawl, trammel net, gill net, wing net, beach and purse seines (all must be under 1200' in total length and with a minimum 1 1/2" square stretched mesh size and 1 3/4" square mesh October 15-December 15), fish traps (with a minimum 1 1/2" square mesh size). Only single point hooks may be used while fishing with live, dead, or cut bait.

Nets, seines, or traps used for catching fish other than mullet are not permitted within 1200' of any pier or harbor. Mullet fishing is defined as any net fishing activity in which 90% or more of the total catch by weight consists of mullet. Mullet fishing using fish traps, seines, or nets other than cast or brail nets is not permitted within 1200' of any public or hotel/motel pier nor within 300' of any private pier, provided that such piers are in usable condition and extend 75' or more from the shoreline. Nets must not exceed 1200' in length. However, when mullet fishing, two such nets may be tied together and fished by two boats, provided that each vessel is properly licensed. King mackerel fishing is defined as fishing activity in which the sole purpose is to catch king mackerel; and the catching in excess of 10% by weight of species other than king mackerel while net fishing for king mackerel is prohibited. All nets except purse seines and trawls used for mullet fishing must be of mesh sizes 1 1/2" square (3" stretched) or larger. Between October 15 through December 15 of each year, gill and trammel nets must be of a mesh size of one and three-fourths (1 3/4) inch square, three and one-half (3 1/2) inch stretch or larger, and it shall be unlawful for any boat to use more than one (1) such net.

Nets must not exceed 1200' in length. However, when mullet fishing two such nets may be tied together and fished by two boats, provided that each vessel is properly licensed. Purse seines may not exceed 1500' in length, except those used expressly to catch menhaden and must have a mesh size no smaller than 1/2" square (1" stretched). Mullet fishing using fish traps, seines or nets other than cast or brill nets is not permitted within 1200' of any public or hotel/motel pier nor within 300' of any private pier, provided that such piers are in usable condition and extend 75' or more from the shoreline. Nets or seines must be attended by at least one person, stationed within 100 yards of the net, while the net or seine is in the water. All nets, regardless of type, must be clearly marked with the owner's name or license number on floats or buoys placed at intervals of 100' or less. All fish traps or pots and eel traps or pots must be clearly marked with the owner's full name, permit or license number. All fish traps or pots and eel traps or pots must be checked and emptied at least once every 48 hours

Nets, seines, or fish traps are not permitted in any of the following areas: 1) within any river, bayou, creek, canal, stream, tributary, lake, bay, inlet, or other water source entering into salt waters except: Pt. aux Chenes Bay, Middle Bay, Jose Bay, L'Isle Chaud Bay, Heron Bay, South Rigolets, Biloxi Bay, south of a line between Marsh Point and Grand Bayou, parts of Pascagoula Bay; 2) within 1200' of the shoreline of Deer Island; 3) within 1 mile of the shorelines of Cat, Ship, Horn, Petit Bois, or Round Islands or from the shoals of Telegraph Keys or Telegraph Reef during the period from May 15 through September 15 of each year; 4) within 1500 feet from the shoreline between the U.S. Highway 90 bridge and the north shore of Bayou Caddy in Hancock County.

Commercial fishing of any kind is prohibited by city ordinance within 1500' of the shoreline in the cities of Long Beach, Gulfport and Biloxi. A similar ordinance in the city of Pass Christian prohibits the use of gill or trammel nets within 1500' of the shoreline. Nets, seines,

or fish traps are not permitted within 100' of the mouth of any bay, bayou, creek, canal, stream, lake, inlet, channel, or tributary or within any areas that would block the mouth of any such water body. Boats are permitted to use only one approved net as specified.

When landing reports, as required by law, indicate that the 35,000 pound catch limit for red drum has been reached, the DMR will, with adequate notice, issue a news release and public notice closing state waters to the commercial net fishing for red drum for the remainder of that year. Purse seines may not be used to catch in excess of 5% by weight in any set of the net any of the following: spotted seatrout, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, dolphin, pompano, cobia, or jack crevalle. It is illegal for any vessel carrying a purse seine to have on board in excess of 10% by weight of the total catch, any of the aforementioned species. It is illegal for any vessel carrying a purse seine to have on board any quantity of red drum. Commercial fishermen are not permitted to have in their possession any Atlantic bluefin tuna.

From 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., no gill and trammel nets shall be set or otherwise used for the taking of aquatic life within one-half (1/2) nautical mile of the shoreline or any manmade structure attached to the shoreline from Bayou Caddy in Hancock County to Marsh Point in Ocean Springs, Jackson County.

From 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., no gill and trammel nets shall be set or otherwise used for the taking of aquatic life within one-quarter (1/4) nautical mile of the shoreline or any manmade structure attached to the shoreline from Bayou Caddy in Hancock County to Marsh Point in Ocean Springs, Jackson County.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to possess fish in, or in contact with, any gill or trammel net in a boat in the marine waters of Mississippi in the St. Louis Bay north of the CSX Railroad Bridge; in Biloxi Bay north of a line drawn between Marsh Point and Grand Bayou; in Pascagoula Bay north of the CSX Railroad Bridge.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to set or otherwise use a gill or trammel net in the marine waters of Mississippi or to possess fish in, or in contact with, a gill or trammel net in a boat in the marine waters of Mississippi between 6:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to set or otherwise use a gill or trammel net in the marine waters of Mississippi or to possess fish in, or in contact with, a gill or trammel net in a boat in the marine waters of Mississippi between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on legal holidays established by the Mississippi legislature and as set forth in Mississippi Code Annotated §3-3-7.

No gill or trammel nets shall be set within one-quarter (1/4) nautical mile of another gill or trammel net.

Gill and trammel nets must be attended at all times from a distance of no greater than the length of the boat in use.

On or before January 1, 1997, all gill and trammel nets must be constructed of an approved, biodegradable material.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

Interstate Commerce - \$20.00
Resident Seafood Dealer - \$100.00
Resident Seafood Processor - \$200.00
Resident Menhaden Processor - \$500.00
Transport Permit - \$10.00

*A non-resident will pay the same fee for a license that a Mississippi resident is charged as a non-resident if the fee is more than that listed.

TEXAS

SHRIMP

Shrimp License Management

A limited entry plan for the Texas bay and bait shrimp fishery became effective June 8, 1995, when Governor George Bush signed into law Senate Bill 750. This bill establishes a license management program with the goal of improving the economic stability of the bay and bait shrimp fishery while providing long-term conservation for shrimp stocks.

Important elements of the bill include:

- Eligibility: An individual must have held a valid bay and/or bait license on April 1, 1995, to be eligible to participate in the fishery beginning September 1, 1995.
- License Renewal: Purchase of a bay and/or bait license during the 1995-1996 fishing year is mandatory for renewal of the license in the 1996-1997 fishing year.
- Review Board: Individual hardship or appeals cases may be heard by the Limited Entry Review Board composed of shrimpers elected by their peers.
- Vessel Upgrades: There are a number of restrictions on vessel upgrades. For details concerning these restrictions, contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the address listed below.
- License Transfers: There are a number of restrictions on license transfers. For details concerning these restrictions, contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the address of phone numbers listed below.

For further information on any limited entry requirements and restrictions, contact: Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744; 1-800-792-1112 ext. 4862 or (512) 389-4862.

Commercial Licenses

Resident General Commercial Fisherman - \$20.00 -- Required for any resident who catches aquatic products except oysters and shrimp from state waters for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose; or unloads in this state aquatic products that were taken from water outside this state and have not been previously unloaded in another state or a foreign country, for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose.

Non-Resident General Commercial Fisherman - \$150.00 -- Required for anyone who has not been a resident of the state for at least 6 months.

Bay Shrimp Boat - \$195.00 -- Required for each boat required to be registered under federal or state laws, used in inside major bay waters for taking shrimp or other edible aquatic products for pay, barter, sale, or exchange. Non-Resident Bay Shrimp Boat - \$525.00 (Bay Shrimp Boat and Bait Shrimp Boat licenses subject to limited entry)

Gulf Shrimp Boat - \$275.00 -- Required for each boat required to be registered under federal or state laws, used in the Gulf or outside waters for taking shrimp or other edible aquatic products for pay, barter, sale, or exchange or for boats unloading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters. Non-Resident Gulf Shrimp Boat - \$1025.00

Shrimp Boat Captain's License

Resident - \$25.00

Non-resident - \$100.00

Required of any person who operates a commercial shrimp boat catching or attempting to catch shrimp and other aquatic products from the public waters of this state or unloading or attempting to unload in this state shrimp and other aquatic products taken from waters outside this state.

Recreational Licenses

Resident Sportfishing License - \$13.00

Non-Resident Sportfishing License - \$30.00

Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$7.00

Individual Bait Shrimp Trawl Tag - \$23.00

Temporary (5 day) Non-resident Fishing - \$20.00

Commercial Season Inside Major Bays

Spring open season in "major bays" is from May 15 to July 15, days only, from 30 minutes before sunrise to 2:00 pm.

Fall open season in "major bays" is from August 15 to December 15, days only, from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Winter open season in "major bays" south of the Colorado River is from February 1 to April 15, nights only, 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

Commercial Season - Gulf

The "outside waters" within 7 fathoms are closed to night shrimping (30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise) throughout the year. The "outside waters" are closed from 30 minutes after sunset on May 15 to 30 minutes after sunset on July 15. The closing and opening dates of this season may be changed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission or the Executive Director to provide for an earlier or

later season. The closing date may be changed with a 72-hour public notice, and the season may be reopened with a 24-hour public notice (closed season will not exceed 75 days). The "outside waters" within 7 fathoms are closed from December 16-February 1, both days inclusive. Seabobs may be taken in this closed season only during daylight hours and only by commercial Gulf shrimp boats. The catch taken in this period may not include more than 10 percent by weight or numbers of shrimp of other species.

Recreational Season

Season same as commercial shrimp season.

Commercial Gear Limitations

All trawl mesh, including bags, must not be less than 8 3/4" in length between the two most widely separated knots in any consecutive series of five stretched meshes after the net or bag has been placed in use in the fall bay season and Gulf. During the spring bay season and winter bay season trawl mesh must not be less than 6 1/2" in length between the two most widely separated knots in any consecutive series of 5 stretched meshes.

Trawl size must meet the following specifications:

Gulf - No width restriction except during the winter closed season. During the winter closed season no more than one trawl not exceeding 25' in width and with a mesh size no larger than 5 stretched meshes in 6 1/2" may be used to take seabobs within 7 fathoms. A try net not exceeding 21' in width as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door and the doors or boards may not exceed 450 square inches, or a beam trawl not exceeding 10' in width may also be used.

Fall Bay Season - Net may not exceed 95' in width measured from leading tip of door to leading tip of door along the uninterrupted corkline.

Spring Bay and Winter Bay Season - Trawl measured from leading tip of door to leading tip of door.

Doors	Trawl	Doors	Trawl
3'-4'	40'	4'-5'	42'
5'-6'	44'	6'-7'	46'
7'-8'	48'	8'-9'	50'
9'-10'	52'	10' or more	54'

A beam trawl used as a main trawl may not exceed 25' in total width.

Recreational Gear Limitations

Trawl may not exceed 20' in width measured from back of door to back of door, mesh must be at least 8 3/4" in length between the two most widely separated knots in any consecutive series of 5 stretched meshes.

Commercial Legal Size

There are no size restrictions except in Major Bay waters from August 15 to October 31 when the legal count is 50 heads-on per pound during the fall open season.

Recreational Legal Size

All rules and regulations of commercial shrimp apply.

Commercial Pounds Allowed

In Gulf (outside waters), no limit on pounds taken. In inside waters, no limit during fall open season and winter open season; no more than 600 pounds of any size heads-on shrimp per boat per day may be taken during the spring open season.

Recreational Pounds Allowed

Gulf (outside waters) - 100 pounds per day. Inside waters - 15 pounds during fall and spring open seasons.

LIVE BAIT

License (limited entry rules apply)

- Bait Shrimp Dealer - \$115.00 -- Required for any person engaging in the business of selling shrimp for bait in a coastal county.
- Bait Shrimp Boat - \$195.00 -- Required for any boat used in the inside or bay waters of the state for taking bait shrimp for sale.
- Non-Resident Bait Shrimp Boat - \$525.00

Season

Open year round: Legal shrimping hours - 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset from July 16 through May 14; and 30 minutes before sunrise to 2:00 pm from May 15 through July 15. There is a special commercial bait season and legal hours in the Laguna Madre in Nueces County. Check with the Parks and Wildlife Department for information.

Gear

Mesh: not less than 6 1/2" over 5 stretched meshes. Trawl width (measured from leading tip of door to leading tip of door):

Doors	Trawl	Doors	Trawl
3'-4'	40'	4'-5'	42'
5'-6'	44'	6'-7'	46'
7'-8'	48'	8'-9'	50'
9'-10'	52'	10' or more	54'

A beam trawl used as a main trawl may not exceed 25' in total width.

Legal Size

No restrictions.

Pounds Allowed

No more than 200 pounds heads-on shrimp per day may be taken from inside waters by commercial bait boats.

Restrictions

50% of commercial bait shrimp on board the boat must be kept in a live condition except from August 16 through November 15.

SHELLFISH - OYSTERS

License Requirements

Resident Commercial Oyster Boat License - \$350.00. Non-resident Commercial Oyster Boat License - \$1400.00. Required for each boat used to transport or for taking oysters for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose from the public waters of this state by utilizing a dredge, tongs, or other mechanical means.

Seasons

Season is open from November 1 through April 30 except in that part of the Laguna Madre south of the Port Mansfield Channel and all private leases with permits from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where there is no closed season. During open season oysters may be taken only from sunrise to sunset.

Gear

Oyster dredges not more than 48" in width across the mouth and of not more than two-barrel capacity may be used or possessed on board any boat in public waters. Commercial vessels may not have more than two dredges on board. Only one dredge may be used at any one time.

Size Limits

Minimum size for oysters is 3". Oysters 3/4" to 3" are to be culled and returned to reef from which taken. Provided, however, that each cargo may contain not more than 15% of oysters of this size.

Limits

Commercial boats are limited to not more than 50 barrels of legal size oysters. Not more than two barrels of uncultured oysters are permitted on board while fishing on a reef.

Leases

Leases are granted to individuals upon approval of Coastal Fisheries Division.

Restrictions

Oysters may be taken only from waters approved by the State Commissioner of Health.

SHELLFISH - CRABS

Licenses

General Commercial Fisherman – Required for person who catches aquatic products except oysters and shrimp from the waters of the state for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange.

- Resident - \$20.00
- Non-resident - \$150.00

Commercial Fishing Boat – Required for boat (registered under federal or state laws) used in taking aquatic life except menhaden, oysters, and shrimp from the public waters of the state for pay, barter, sale, exchange, or any commercial purpose; or for boats unloading aquatic products taken outside the state's waters for pay, barter, sale, exchange, or any other commercial purpose.

- Resident - \$15.00
- Non-resident - \$60.00

Restrictions

It is unlawful to possess egg-bearing crabs or stone crabs. No person may buy or sell a female crab that has its abdominal apron detached and was taken from coastal waters. No more than 200 crab traps may be used by any person. Crab trap buoys must be marked with the owner's name, address, and date set out. Crab traps must be marked with a white, commercial or white, with 2" wide center stripe of contrasting color for recreational floating buoy not less than 6" in width. Crab traps may not exceed 18 cubic feet. Crab traps may be fished only in coastal waters. Cannot remove crab traps or crabs during a period from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. Crab traps must be equipped with at least 2 escape vents (minimum 2 3/8" in diameter) in each crab retaining chamber and located on the lower edge of the trap walls. Plastic bottles are prohibited when used as a crab trap buoy. Crab traps may not be placed or fished within 100 feet of another crab trap, except when secured to a dock.

Legal Size

Hardshell blue crabs must be 5" in carapace width. One claw, right claw only, may be removed from a stone crab, and it must measure 2 1/2". Cannot possess left claw.

FINFISH

Commercial Licenses

- Resident General Commercial Fisherman - \$20.00
- Non-resident General Commercial Fisherman - \$150.00
- Resident Commercial Finfish - \$75.00 (qualified applicants only)
- Non-resident Commercial Finfish - \$150.00 (qualified applicants only)

Recreational Licenses

- Resident Sportfishing License - \$13.00
- Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp - \$7.00
- Non-resident Sportfishing License - \$30.00

Size and Possession Limits for Texas saltwater finfish species are as follows (all sizes are total length measurements):

Species	Daily bag	Possession	Minimum length in inches	Maximum length in inches
COMMERCIAL				
Amberjack, greater	3	6	32	
Drum, black	5*	10*	14	30
Catfish, gafftopsail			14	
Flounder	20*	40*	12	
Cobia	2	4	37	
Spanish mackerel	7	14	14	
King mackerel	2	4	23	

Mullet*			No minimum	12 during Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan
Pompano, Florida			9	
Snapper, lane			8	
Snapper, red	5	10	15	
Snapper, vermilion			8	
Sharks	5	10		
Sheepshead	5*	10*	12	
Fishermen holding a finfish fisherman license are exempt from bag limits on black drum, sheepshead, and flounder.				
RECREATIONAL				
Notice - There may be exceptions on certain lakes -- check digest.				
Amberjack, greater	3	6	32	
Bass, striped	5	15	18	
Catfish, gafftopsail			14	
Cobia	2	4	37	
Drum, black	5	10	14	30
Drum, red***	3	6	20	28
Flounder	20	40	12	
Jewfish	0	0	catch and release only	
Mackerel, king	2	4	23	
Mackerel, Spanish	7	14	14	
Marlin, blue			114	
Marlin, white			81	
Mullet*			No minimum	12 during Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan
Pompano, Florida			9	
Sailfish			76	
Seatrout, spotted	10	20	15	
Sharks	5	10		
Sheepshead	5	10	12	
Snapper, lane			8	
Snapper, red	5	10	15	
Snapper, vermilion			8	
Snook	1	2	24	28

Tarpon (tarpon over 80" may be retained with special trophy tag)	0	0	catch and release only	
Black bass, large mouth small mouth	5**	10**	14	0
Catfish, flathead	5	10	24	0
Catfish, channel and blue	25**	50**	9	0
Crappie, white and black	25**	50**	10	0
Walleye	5	10	16	0

*No person may take from public waters or possess on board a boat mullet over 12 inches in length during October, November, December, and January. There are no size restrictions during other months.

**In aggregate.

***One red drum over 28" may be retained with a properly executed red drum tag.

No person while actually fishing on the public waters of the state may have in his immediate possession any fish in excess of the daily bag limit.

The following finfish taken from Texas state waters may not be transported or possessed for the purpose of sale, offered for sale, or purchased under any circumstances: bass of the genus *Micropterus*; bass, striped; bass, white; bass, yellow; catfish, flathead; crappie; drum, red; jewfish; marlin, blue; marlin, white; muskellunge; pike, northern; sailfish; sauger; seatrout, spotted; snook; spearfish, longbill; tarpon; walleye; hybrids of any of these fish. (Bass of the genus *Micropterus*, striped bass, white bass, crappie, flathead catfish, and red drum must be farm-raised to be transported, sold, imported, or exported for commercial purposes.)

NET RESTRICTIONS

All coastal waters in Texas are closed to the use of drag seines, strike nets, gill nets, and trammel nets. It is unlawful for any person to use gill nets, trammel nets, or hoop nets in the fresh waters of Texas.

SEAFOOD BUSINESS LICENSES

Finfish Import License - \$75.00
Wholesale Fish Dealer - \$525.00
Wholesale Fish Dealer Truck - \$325.00
Retail Fish Dealer - \$46.00
Retail Fish Dealer Truck - \$86.00
Shrimp House Operator - \$425.00

Information in this section was current on September 1, 1995 and may change due to Texas legislative or Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission actions.

This section is only a brief and incomplete summary of Texas Fishing Regulations. More detailed information concerning Texas Fishing Regulations can be obtained from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744 (1-800-792-1112) or (512) 389-4628.

This section (Fishing Regulations for Gulf of Mexico Federal Waters) was taken from a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council which was prepared for general informational purposes in February 1995 and has no legal force or effect. Fishing regulations are subject to change.

FISHING REGULATIONS FOR GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS

Recreational Regulations

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Recreational Daily Bag and Possession Limit	Remarks
Cobia (ling)	Minimum 33" FL*		2/person	
Stone crab	Minimum 2 3/4" claw	5/16 - 10/14		Claws may not be removed from egg-bearing females. Illegal to land whole crab. Measures apply off Florida's west coast and the Keys.
Spiny lobster	More than 3" carapace. Divers must measure in water.	4/1 - 8/5 Special non-trap recreational season to be last consecutive Wednesday and Thursday in July.	6/person (12/person off Florida except 6/person for Monroe County to Florida Keys), and no transfer at sea between boats.	Removal of tail prohibited at sea. See commercial regulations for trap use. No spears, hooks, or piercing devices. No taking of berried spiny or slipper lobster.
King mackerel	Minimum 20" FL		2/person for all vessels.***	
Spanish mackerel	Minimum 12" FL		Same as state limit but not to exceed 10/person. ***	
Red drum		Season closed.	Zero	No retention of red drum.
<u>Tuna</u> Bluefin	26" to less than 70" FL	Season closes when quota is filled.	Two permitted per person per day. Vessel limits apply.	Incidental permit required. Must be reported within 24 hours and made available for inspection. May not be sold.
Bigeye Yellowfin	7 pounds 7 pounds			All tunas must be landed in round or eviscerated form with one pectoral fin intact; head removal allowed. Caudal fin must be intact on bluefin.
BILLFISH Blue marlin White marlin Sailfish Swordfish	Min. size lower jaw to tail fork 86" 62" 57" 31"CL* or 41 lbs dressed weight			No retention unless taken by rod and reel. Sale prohibited. Dressed weight = gutted, headed, and finned.
REEF FISH <u>Snappers</u> Red snapper Vermilion Lane	15" TL 8" TL 8" TL		5/person*** None None	(vermilion = beeliner = mingo)
Gray Mutton Yellowtail	12" TL 12" TL 12" TL		10/person*** in Aggregate**	

<u>Deep-Water Groupers</u> Misty Snowy Yellowedge Warsaw Speckled hind <u>Shallow-Water Groupers</u> Red Nassau Yellowfin Black Gag Scamp	None None None None None 20" TL 20" TL 20" TL 20" TL 20" TL None		5/person in Aggregate*** (includes all groupers in addition to those listed).	All reef fish with size limits must be landed with head and fins intact. (Speckled hind = Kitty Mitchell)
Black seabass	8" TL		No limit	
Greater amberjack	28" FL		3/person***	
Jewfish		Season closed.	Zero.	
SHARKS Large coastal or pelagics Small coastals	None None		4/vessel/trip/in combination 5/person/day	Sale prohibited without permit; sharks not retained must be released uninjured. Limits allowed in both groups.

*FL = fork length measure: tip of snout to fork of tail

*TL = total length measure: tip of snout to tip of tail

*CL = carcass length measure: curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel

*PF = pectoral fin fork length: dorsal insertion of pectoral fin to fork of tail

** Includes all snappers other than red, vermilion, and lane

*** Persons on qualified charter or headboat trips in excess of 24 hours may possess 2 days' bag limits.

Commercial Regulations

Species	Permit Required	Size Limit	Gear Restrictions	Remarks
Cobia (ling)	No	Minimum size limit of 33" FL*.	Drift gill nets are prohibited.	Daily bag and possession limit of 2/person.
Stone crab	No	Minimum claw size limit 2 3/4".	Biodegradable panel required on traps. Traps may not be tended at night. Buoy and trap identification required.	Season closed 5/16 - 10/14. Measures apply off Florida's west coast and the Keys. Area restrictions apply off Hernando and Citrus Counties. Vessel identification required. Illegal to land whole crabs. Claws may not be removed from egg-bearing crabs.
Spiny lobster	Yes	Size limit more than 3" carapace or 5 1/2" tail.** Divers must measure in water.	Only diving, bully nets, hoop nets, and traps not to exceed 2' x 2' x 3' allowed. Degradable panel required on non-wooden traps. Traps may not be tended at night. Night divers restricted to bag limit. Buoy and trap identification required. Bycatch of 5% allowed with trawls.	Season closed 4/1 - 8/5. No spears, hooks, or piercing devices. No taking of berried spiny or slipper lobsters. Vessel identification required. Maximum of 50 shorts (or 1 per trap on board) may be held as attractants in a live well containing 3/4 gallons of aerated, circulating sea water per lobster.
King mackerel	Yes and net endorsement required off Florida.	Minimum size 20" FL.	Only hook and line and run around gill-nets are allowed (minimum mesh 4 3/4" stretch). Net vessel trap limits apply off Florida.	Vessel identification required. Reporting required for selected vessels and dealers. Season opens 7/1 except off Monroe County, FL opens 4/1. Season closes when quota is filled.
Spanish mackerel	Yes	Minimum size 12" FL	Purse seines and drift gill-nets prohibited. Gill-net minimum mesh 3 1/2" stretch.	Vessel identification required. Reporting required for selected vessels and dealers. Season opens 4/1 and closes when quota is filled.
Red drum			Season closed.	Season closed.
Shrimp	No	No, but white shrimp taken in the EEZ and transported to Louisiana must comply with the minimum size limit of that state.	Trawling prohibited in Tortugas sanctuary; stone crab zone off Florida Bay 1/1 - 5/20; stone crab zones off Hernando and Citrus counties, FL seasonally; and Texas closure usually 5/15 - 7/15 off Texas.	Reporting required for selected vessels and dealers. Vessel identification required. Royal red shrimp season closes when annual quota is filled.
Billfish (except swordfish)	No	See recreational regulations.	No commercial fishery allowed.	Retention prohibited on longline and driftnet vessels; must be released in water alive. Sale prohibited.
Swordfish	Yes	31" CL or 41 pounds, dressed weight (gutted, headed, and finned). 15% by number under-sized allowed.	Only drift gill nets, harpoons, and longlines may target, other gear is incidental catch.	Vessel identification, permit, and reports required. Fish must be landed whole or dressed. Season closes when quota is filled.

Bluefin tuna	Yes	Minimum size 70" FL or 52" PF.*	Longline bycatch only.	One per trip allowed with at least 1,500 lbs of other species landed, recorded, and sold 1/1 - 4/30. 5/1 - 12/30, 3,500 lbs other species required. Closes when quota is filled. (See below.)	
Bigeye tuna Yellowfin tuna		7 pounds 7 pounds		All tunas must be landed in round or eviscerated form fins attached. Head removal allowed. Caudal fin must be intact on bluefin.	
REEF FISH <u>Snappers</u> Red Vermilion Lane Gray Mutton Yellowtail	Permits and trip endorsements required to fish and use traps for all reef fish.	14" TL	See "Other Reef Fish Requirements."	2000 pound limit with endorsement. 200 pound trip limit without endorsement. Closes when quota is filled. No closure. (vermillion = beeliner = mingo) No closure.	
<u>Deep-Water Groupers</u> Misty Snowy Yellowedge Warsaw Speckled hind Scamp		None None None None None None		Closes when the deep-water grouper quota is filled. Scamp may be landed when either grouper quota is open. (Speckled hind = Kitty Mitchell)	
<u>Shallow-water Groupers</u> Red Nassau Yellowfin Black Gag Scamp <u>Other Reef Fish</u> Black seabass		Permits required to fish and use traps.		20" TL 20" TL 20" TL 20" TL 20" TL None	Closes when the shallow-water grouper quota is filled. Scamp may be landed when either grouper quota is open. Includes all groupers other than those listed above as deep water.
Greater amberjack				(commercial) 36" FL	No closure.
Jewfish				Season closed.	
SHARKS Large coastal or pelagic	Yes	None	Trip limit 4000 pounds for large coastals.	Six month season closes when quota is filled for that group. Ratio of wet fins to dressed carcass NTE 5%. Sharks not retained must be released uninjured. Trip reports required	
Small coastals	Yes	None		No quota	

*FL = fork length measure: tip of snout to fork of tail.

*TL = total length measure: tip of snout to tip of tail.

*CL = carcass length measure: curved measure from posterior edge of gill opening to anterior portion of caudal keel.

*PF = pectoral fin fork length: dorsal insertion of pectoral fin to fork of tail.

**Removal of tail only under special circumstances and with tailing permit.

OTHER REEF FISH REQUIREMENTS

The use of longlines and buoy gear for reef fish is prohibited inside of lines approximating 50 fathoms west and 20 fathoms east of Cape San Blas, Florida. Vessels fishing within this zone and possessing longlines or buoy gear may not exceed the recreational bag limits and for reef fish without bag limits, 5 percent by weight of all fish aboard.

Entangling nets may not be used for directed harvest of reef fish.

Vessels with shrimp trawls or entangling net gear aboard may not exceed the recreational bag limits.

Reef fish taken under the recreational bag limit may not be sold.

Dealers purchasing reef fish from federal waters must have a federal permit.

Permitted reef fish vessels must display identification numbers.

A reef fish trap endorsement is required for using traps, and vessels are limited to 100 traps. Traps must be returned to shore at the end of each trip and must have degradable panels, mesh no smaller than 1" x 2", 1.5" hexagon, or 1.5" by 1.5". Inside 300' contour, traps may not exceed 33 cu. ft. Two 2" x 2" escape windows required on two sides excluding the bottom (4 openings). Hinges and fasteners of degradable panel or access door must be constructed of either untreated jute string of no more than 3/16 inch diameter or magnesium alloy. Buoy and trap identification required. Traps (or the ends of a string of traps) must be buoyed and may not be tended at night. Pop up buoys are prohibited.

Reporting required for fish trap users, for other selected vessels, and for selected dealers.

Stressed areas for reef fish begin at the shoreward boundary of federal waters and generally follow the 10 fathom contour from the Dry Tortugas to Sanibel Island; the 20 fathom contour to Tarpon Springs; the 10 fathom contour to Cape San Blas; the 25 fathom contour to south of Mobile Bay; and the 13 fathom contour to Ship Island, Mississippi; 10 fathom contour off Louisiana; and the 30 fathom contour off Texas. In designated "stressed areas" use of fish traps, roller trawls, and power heads is prohibited.

Reef fish gear is limited to no more than 3 hooks in a special management zone off Alabama. Non-conforming gear is restricted to bag limit or for reef fish without a bag limit to 5 percent by weight of all fish aboard.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All fish except for bait and oceanic migratory species possessed in federal waters must have heads and fins intact. Legal size fish within a bag limit may be consumed at sea.

Riley's Hump near the Dry Tortugas is closed to all fishing in May and June.

Coral: It is unlawful to take, damage, or possess corals or sea fans in federal (or Florida) waters. Octocorals other than sea fans may be taken with a valid federal or state permit. Recreational harvesters are limited to six colonies per day. It is unlawful to use bottom trawls, longlines, or traps on the Flower Garden Banks or Florida Middle Grounds.

Live Rock: Permits, area closures, and harvest restrictions apply. Contact the Council office or the NMFS for regulations.

Federal waters begin 9 nautical miles off Texas and Florida's west coast and 3 nautical miles off the other Gulf States.

Permits: Applications for permits may be obtained from:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Koger Building
9721 Executive Center Drive
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702
(813) 570-5326

State requirements may differ from federal regulations. For information pertaining to laws, rules, and activities in state waters, contact the individual state conservation agencies.