

## FISHING REGULATIONS

### NON-GAME FISH TO BE TAKEN

Game fish and nongame fish may be taken with pole and line or rod and reel. There is no limit on the number of rods an angler may use.

Freshwater fish may not be taken by use of any free-floating, unattached device, or by use of firearms, explosives, electricity, spear gun, poison or other chemicals. The taking of fish by underwater swimming or diving is prohibited. It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale or transport out of the state any freshwater game fish unless specifically permitted by the FWC, except that licensed anglers may transport two days' bag limit of legally harvested game fish.

It is illegal to possess any freshwater fish along with gear that cannot legally be used to take freshwater fish, including gear types listed above and below for taking nongame fish or bait. An exception is game fish may be possessed together with cast nets having a stretched mesh size not greater than 1 inch; minnow dip nets not more than 4 feet in diameter; minnow seines having a stretched mesh size not greater than 1 inch, a length not more than 20 feet and a depth not more than 4 feet; and minnow traps not more than 24 inches in length and 12 inches in diameter, with a funnel entrance not more than 1 inch in spread.

It is illegal to fillet or remove the head or tail fin of black bass, striped bass, white bass, sunshine bass (striped bass x white bass hybrid), peacock bass, black crappie and panfish (where special black crappie or panfish size or bag limits are in effect) until after you have completed fishing for the day.

### NON-GAME FISH TO BE TAKEN

- By bush hook, setline or trotline baited with cut bait or other substance; but not including live game fish or any part of any game fish; bush hooks, setlines or trotlines (limited to 25 hooks total) are permitted for taking nongame fish for personal use, but only in those areas where trotlines may be lawfully used in accordance with the Wildlife Code of the State of Florida. Refer to the "Commercial Freshwater Fisheries Rules and Regulations Summary."
- By manually operated spears, gigs, snatch hooks, crossbows or bows during daylight hours except on the Jim Woodruff Dam spillway, in Dade County canals south of C-4 and east of L-31N or L-31W, and at the spillways of the Eureka and Rodman dams. Nongame fish may be taken at night using gigs or bow and arrow.
- By cast nets in the Southwest Region (except in certain waters adjoining Saddle Creek Fish Management Area, and certain Fish Management Areas); Northeast Region, (except for Duval, Indian River, and Nassau counties; certain St. Johns River Water Management District areas of Lake County; and certain Fish Management Areas) in Citrus and Hernando counties (North Central Region) and Glades County (South Region).
- Using a bow and light at night. Night bowfishing tournaments do not require a permit in the Northwest Region.
- By netting and impounding at night from Sept. 1 to May 1 in specified waters in northwest Florida. Nets used to take nongame fish in these specified waters must be less than 100 feet in length, have a minimum 3-inch stretched mesh and shall be continuously attended to ensure immediate release of any trapped game fish; contact the Northwest Region office for details.

### GAME AND NONGAME FRESHWATER FISH

Game Fish—black bass, black crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, warmouth, redbreast sunfish, spotted sunfish, flier, mud sunfish, longear sunfish, shadow bass, peacock bass, white bass, striped bass and sunshine bass.

Nongame Fish—bowfin, common carp, catfish, pickerel, eels, gar, threadfin shad, gizzard shad, shiners, tilapia (Nile perch), killifish, suckers, topminnows and fishes not listed as freshwater game fish and not taken for sport.

### PROHIBITED GEAR FOR TAKING MARINE SPECIES IN FRESH WATER

Use of any hand or mechanically propelled, single or multi-pronged spear or lance, barbed or barbless, to harvest or attempt to harvest any marine species while diving in freshwater is prohibited.

Spearfishing for mullet in freshwater is prohibited. (Note: spearfishing involves the user being at or below the surface of the water (meaning swimming). Giggling from a boat or shore is allowed, as is snatch hooking and bow fishing.)

### METHODS OF TAKING BAIT

Freshwater shrimp and minnows of nongame fish (except catfish) may be taken by:

- Cast nets having



- a stretched mesh size not greater than 1 inch.
- Minnow dip nets not more than 4 feet in diameter.
- Minnow seines having a stretched mesh size not greater than 1 inch, a length not more than 20 feet, and a depth not more than 4 feet.
- Minnow traps not more than 24 inches in length and 12 inches in diameter, with a funnel entrance not more than 1 inch in spread.
- Any game fish harvested by these methods must be released immediately.
- Taking of bait for the purpose of sale requires a commercial fishing license.

### USE OF FISH FOR BAIT

- Black bass, peacock bass or any part thereof may not be used as bait.
- Live goldfish or carp may not be used as bait.
- Whole pickerel or bream (e.g., bluegill, redear sunfish, redbreast sunfish, spotted sunfish, flier, warmouth) or parts thereof may be used as bait for sportfishing by the angler who caught them. Whole pickerel or bream or parts thereof may not be used as bait for trotlines or bush hooks or any method other than by rod and reel or pole and line.

### GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR FISH MANAGEMENT AREAS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004

1. A fishing license is required for residents from 16 to 64 years of age, and for nonresidents 16 or more years of age, to fish by any method, including cane poles, on a Fish Management Area. Refer to Fishing

License Fees for exemptions. 2. The possession of fishing tackle is prohibited on any Fish Management Area that is closed to fishing. 3. Daily bag limits and methods of taking freshwater fish apply except as provided for a particular Fish Management Area. 4. The possession of nets (other than legal minnow seines, cast nets or dip nets), fish traps, trotlines or setlines is prohibited unless specifically authorized by rules established for a particular Fish Management Area. 5. Persons entering or leaving Fish Management Areas that have designated entry points shall enter or leave only at such designated points. 6. Any vehicle, boat or other transportation device may be searched while in, entering or leaving a Fish Management Area. 7. Fish Management Areas may be temporarily closed to accommodate management projects (e.g., drawdowns), or if unsafe conditions exist, or as otherwise specified in a specific Fish Management Area rule. 8. Intentional release of wildlife or freshwater fish on Fish Management Areas is prohibited.

For limits at specific bodies of water throughout Florida go to:

[www.FloridaFishing-Boating.com](http://www.FloridaFishing-Boating.com)

<http://MyFWC.com/fishing/rules.html>

## BASIC RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

There is a brief summary of regulations governing the taking of saltwater species in Florida for personal use at [www.floridafishing-boating.com](http://www.floridafishing-boating.com). It is not intended or designed to provide specific information on commercial harvesting of these species. The failure to include complete laws, rules and regulations in this summary does not relieve persons from abiding by those laws, rules or regulations. State waters extend to 3 nautical miles on the Atlantic Ocean and 9 nautical miles on the Gulf of Mexico. Federal rules apply beyond state waters. For species that do not have an established bag limit, more than 100 pounds or 2 fish per person per day (whichever is greater), is considered commercial quantities. A saltwater products license and commercial vessel registration is required to harvest commercial quantities of unregulated species.

For species, minimum size, limits, closed seasons, recreational bag limits, and remarks

*visit:*



[www.FloridaFishing-Boating.com](http://www.FloridaFishing-Boating.com)

<http://MarineFisheries.org/>

[www.MyFWC.com/fishing/rules.htm](http://www.MyFWC.com/fishing/rules.htm)

It is unlawful to harvest, possess, land, purchase, sell or exchange the following species: Nassau Grouper, Goliath Grouper (Jewfish), Sawfish, Basking Shark, Whale Shark, Spotted Eagle Ray, Sturgeon, White Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Manta Ray, Spiny Dogfish, Longspine Urchin, Stony, Hard and Fire Corals, Sea Fans, Florida Queen Conch and Bahama Starfish. Harvest of live rock in state waters is prohibited.