



**STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION**

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COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE LAWS OR REGULATIONS THIS EXPLANATION OF THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IS CORRECT AS OF THE DATE SPECIFIED. BEFORE TAKING PART IN THIS FISHERY PLEASE CALL FOR UPDATED INFORMATION CALL 251-861-2882 (MOBILE) OR 251-968-7576 (BALDWIN) IT IS THE FISHERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

Allowable Gear: Hook and Line, Rod and Reel, Cast Net, Gig, Trot Line, Spear, Bow and Arrow

Species	Commercial Possession	Minimum Length in Inches
Red Snapper	see (1) and (5) on reverse	13" TL
Cobia (Ling)	2	36" FL
Gray Triggerfish	16 per vessel, see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	14" FL
Gag Grouper	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	24" TL
Red Grouper	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	18" TL
Black Grouper	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	24" TL
Yellowfin Grouper	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	20" TL
Scamp	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	16" TL
Florida Pompano	3	12" TL
Vermilion Snapper	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	10" TL
Lane Snapper	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	8" TL
Gray Snapper	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	12" TL
Tripletail (Blackfish)	3	18" TL
Flounder*	40	14" TL
King Mackerel	see (4) on reverse	24" FL
Greater Amberjack	see (1), (4), & (5) on reverse	36" FL
Mullet	see (2) on reverse	No Size Limit
All Sharks	see (1) and (3) on reverse	No Size Limit
Sheepshead	No Bag Limit	12" FL

* The taking or possession of flounder from Nov. 1 - Nov. 30 is prohibited.

Large Coastal Sharks:	Prohibited Species:
Ridgeback Sharks - Tiger Non-ridgeback sharks - Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Scalloped hammerhead, Smooth hammerhead, Spinner	Goliath grouper, Nassau grouper Rays: Atlantic manta, Spotted eagle ray Sharks: Atlantic angel, Basking, Bigeye sand tiger, Bigeye sixgill, Bigeye thresher, Bignose, Dusky, Longfin mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sand tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White, Lagetooth and Smalltooth sawfish (unless the fishermen possesses a NOAA Fisheries sandbar shark research permit).

THERE IS NO CREEL LIMIT OR SIZE LIMIT ON SPECIES NOT LISTED

All finfish shall be maintained with heads and fins intact. Sharks, swordfish, and tuna may be landed in a form permitted by federal regulations.

(1) Gulf Reef Fish - Fishermen taking Gulf Reef Fish for commercial purposes from Alabama waters must fish from a vessel holding a federal reef-fish commercial vessel permit and an Individual Fishing Quota for such species that require one.

- The operator of those vessels permitted to land Gulf Reef Fish are required to present, to any seafood dealer purchasing the Gulf Reef Fish, their federal vessel permit and Alabama Commercial Fishing License.
- Any vessel or individual required to possess a federal permit by the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Management Plan or permit by the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Management Plan (to be exempt from bag limit requirements) must possess such permit to possess or land such fish in Alabama.
- Alabama seafood dealers may purchase other seafood from federally permitted fishermen fishing the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) only if such fishermen possess an Alabama Commercial Fishing License.
- Commercial fishermen landing Gulf Reef Fish in Alabama that are mandated under IFQ shall abide by 50 CFR Part 622 for landing, off loading, transporting, and reporting.
- Anglers must use non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for, retaining, possessing or landing gulf reef fish when using natural bait.

(2) Mullet - No bag limit: From October 24 - December 31, the taking of mullet is prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, Fowl River, or their tributaries.

(3) Sharks - When federal waters adjunct to Alabama waters are closed to the commercial harvest of a shark species, it shall be unlawful to take, harvest, or possess or attempt to take, harvest, or possess, for commercial purposes, such sharks from the water of the State of Alabama. Commercially licensed Alabama gillnet fishermen targeting other fish may have an incidental by-catch of dressed weight sharks totaling no more than 10% by weight of other fish taken. Shark fishing in Alabama waters is allowed from 12:01 AM each Monday through 11:59 PM each Friday. *It will be closed on weekends and from 12:01 AM through 11:59 PM on each of the following holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Alabama waters east of Little Lagoon Pass (87°44.4'W) are closed.*

- Anglers must use non-offset non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing for, retaining, possessing, or landing sharks when using natural bait.

(4) When adjoining federal waters are closed then state waters are closed, to the taking of the following:

Gulf Reef Fish, king mackerel, and sharks. Hook and Line: King mackerel maximum of 5% by weight may be undersized.

(5) An Alabama Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement is required for any person possessing, taking, or attempting to take species of Gulf Reef Fish: Gray triggerfish, Greater amberjack, Lesser amberjack, Almaco jack, Banded rudderfish, Hogfish, Queen snapper, Mutton snapper, Blackfin snapper, Red snapper, Cubera snapper, Gray (mangrove) snapper, Lane snapper, Silk snapper, Yellowtail snapper, Wenchman, Vermillion snapper, Goldface tilefish, Blueline tilefish, Tilefish, Speckled hind, Yellowedge grouper, Goliath grouper, Red grouper, Warsaw grouper, Snowy grouper, Black grouper, Yellowmouth grouper, Gag grouper, Scamp, Yellowfin grouper

(6) Commercial fishermen shall not possess game fish (spotted seatrout, red drum, tarpon, or striped bass caught in the jurisdiction of AMRD). With a recreational fishing license, they may retain their recreational bag and creel limits for personal use, in a separate container.

- No person may sell, trade, or barter, or buy, trade for, or barter for, or possess or transport for commercial purposes: any red drum, spotted seatrout, striped bass (caught in the jurisdiction of AMRD), or tarpon caught in Alabama waters.

- ***Saltwater finfish commercially harvested in the waters of the State of Alabama must be landed in this state*** and reported through a properly licensed Alabama seafood dealer. Commercially licensed fishermen are required to sell their catch only to a licensed Alabama seafood dealer. Persons who are transporting commercially harvested saltwater finfish out of the state of Alabama must have, in their possession, proof that said finfish were first landed and reported to a licensed Alabama seafood dealer (a bill of sale, receipt, or trip ticket showing the pounds of fish, the species, the price paid for the product, fishermen's name and license or permit number, the name of the seafood dealer, date of harvest, and date of purchase).

- It is unlawful to possess, in Alabama, any species of saltwater fish or seafood product taken in federal waters or the waters of another state in violation of any applicable federal or state creel, possession, or size limit.