



STATE OF ALABAMA  
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
 POST OFFICE BOX 189  
 DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL 36528  
 TEL (251) 861-2882  
 FAX (251) 861-8741  
 e-mail: amrddi@gulftel.com

Jan 2010

BOB RILEY  
 GOVERNOR

M. BARNETT LAWLEY  
 COMMISSIONER

R. VERNON MINTON, DIRECTOR  
 MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

## COMMERCIAL HOOK & LINE 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 251-861-2882 OR 251-968-7576 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM](http://WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM) FOR UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE FISHERMANS RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME

**LICENSE:** Resident: \$101.00  
 Nonresident: \$201.00

- Commercially licensed fishermen can sell their catch **only to a licensed Alabama seafood dealer.**
- No person may **sell, trade, or barter - or possess or transport for commercial purposes - any redfish, speckled trout or tarpon caught in Alabama waters.**
- Season **closes in state waters** for red snapper, king mackerel and sharks **upon closure of federal waters.**
- It is **unlawful to use** any snag line, trot line, long line or other hook and line device containing **more than five hooks** in waters under Marine Resources Division jurisdiction.
- 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 **unlawfully in violation of any applicable federal or other state creel, possession, or size limit.**

### Commercial Possession and Size Limits for Alabama are as follows:

Species	Commercial Possession	Minimum length in inches
Red Snapper	see (1) (a) on reverse	13" TL
Cobia (Ling)	2	33" FL
Gray triggerfish	No Bag Limit	12" TL
Gag grouper	No Bag Limit	24" TL
Red Grouper	No Bag Limit	18" TL
Black Grouper	No Bag Limit	22" TL
Yellowfin Grouper	No Bag Limit	20" TL
Scamp	No Bag Limit	16" TL
Striped bass	No Commercial Retention	16" TL
Florida pompano	3	12" TL
Vermilion snapper	No Bag Limit	10" TL
Lane snapper	No Bag Limit	8" TL
Gray snapper	No Bag Limit	12" TL
Tripletail (Blackfish)	3	16" TL
Flounder	No Bag Limit	12" TL
King mackerel	No Bag Limit	24" FL
Greater amberjack	No Bag Limit	36" FL
Mullet	see (2) on reverse	No Size Limit
All Sharks	see (3) on reverse	No Size Limit

**NO POSSESSION LIMIT OR SIZE LIMIT ON SPECIES NOT LISTED**



**(1) Red Snapper** - Fishermen taking red snapper 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 for Red Snapper.

(a) The operator of those vessels permitted to land red snapper are **required to present, to any seafood dealer purchasing the red snapper, their federal vessel permit and license.**

**(2) Mullet - No bag limit, except:** from October 24 - December 31, the possession limit on mullet caught by snagging is 25 fish per boat per day or 25 fish per person per day from the shore. During this period, snagging mullet is prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, Fowl River, or their tributaries. There is a possession limit of 25 fish per boat per day when snagging mullet in waters closed to the use of gill nets.

**(3) Sharks** - Alabama waters close to the harvest of all sharks when the federal shark fishery management quotas for Small Coastal Sharks and Large Coastal Sharks are reached. Shark fishing in Alabama waters is allowed from 12:01 AM each Monday through 11:59 PM each Friday (no weekends), but will close from 12:01 AM through 11:59 PM on each of the following holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day.

Large Coastal Sharks:	Prohibited Species:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Ridgeback Sharks</b> - Sandbar, Silky, Tiger</li> <li>2. <b>Non-ridgeback sharks</b> - Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner</li> </ol>	<b>Goliath grouper</b> (jewfish), <b>Nassau grouper</b> <b>Sharks &amp; Rays:</b> Atlantic angel shark, basking shark, bigeye thresher, dusky shark, longfin mako, nurse shark, smalltail shark, sand tiger, whale shark, white shark, largetooth and smalltooth sawfish, Atlantic manta, spotted eagle ray,
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Small Coastal Sharks</b></p> Atlantic sharpnose, Blacknose, Bonnethead, Finetooth	

\*Commercial hook and line fishermen in possession of **over the limit of a species regulated by a recreational possession limit shall not possess game fish** (speckled trout, red fish, and tarpon).

**Saltwater finfish commercially harvested in the State of Alabama must be landed in this state** and reported through a properly 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).

**Any vessel or individual required to possess a federal permit by the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Management Plan or a 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 seafood from **federally permitted fishermen** fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) **only if such fishermen possess a state commercial fishing license.**

