

Recreational Size and Creel Limits for Alabama State Waters

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Spotted Seatrout	14" min TL	10 per person
Red Drum (Redfish)	16" min TL 26" max TL	3 per person 1 oversized fish allowed
Cobia (Ling)	33" min FL	2 per person
King Mackerel	24" min FL	2 per person
Spanish Mackerel	none	15 per person
Florida Pompano	12" min TL	3 per person
Tripletail (Blackfish)	16" min TL	3 per person
Flounder	12" min TL	10 per person
Striped Bass *	16" min TL	2 per person *
Greater Amberjack ****	30" min FL	1 per person
Lesser Amberjack	14" - 22" FL	***
Banded Rudderfish	14" - 22" FL	***
Yellowfin Tuna	27" min CFL	no creel limit
Bigeye Tuna	27" min CFL	no creel limit
Gag Grouper ** ****	22" min TL	2 per person **
Red Grouper ** ****	20" min TL	2 per person **
Black Grouper ** ****	22" min TL	4 per person **
Yellowfin Grouper ** ****	20" min TL	4 per person **
Scamp ** ****	16" min TL	4 per person **

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Snappers		
• Red ****	16" min TL	2 per person
• Gray (mangrove, black)	12" min TL	10 per person
• Vermilion (beeliner)	10" min TL	***
• Lane	8" min TL	***
Gray Triggerfish	14" min FL	***
Tarpon	60" min TL	\$50.00 tag required to harvest each tarpon
Sharks		
• Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead	none	1 per person per day
• All Other Shark Species	54" FL (30" dressed)	1 per person per day

* Only two Striped Bass are allowed within MRD jurisdiction
 ** Mixed species grouper aggregate creel limit : 4 per person (only 2 red grouper and 2 gag grouper may be included in grouper aggregate)
 *** Reef fish aggregate: There is a twenty (20) fish aggregate creel limit for reef fish species (for example, gray triggerfish, lane snapper, etc.) for which there is no other creel limit.

**** Alabama state waters open and close along with federal regulations.
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/fishery_bulletins.htm

ALL FISH MUST BE LANDED WITH THE HEAD AND FINS INTACT

Prohibited Species: Goliath grouper (jewfish), Nassau grouper, Atlantic angel shark, Bigeye sand tiger, Bigeye thresher, Bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, Galapagos shark, Narrowtooth shark, Night shark, Sevengill shark, Sixgill shark, Dusky shark, Longfin mako, Sand tiger, Basking shark, Whale shark, White shark, Nurse shark, Smalltail shark, Smalltooth sawfish, Largetooth sawfish, Spotted eagle ray, Atlantic manta.

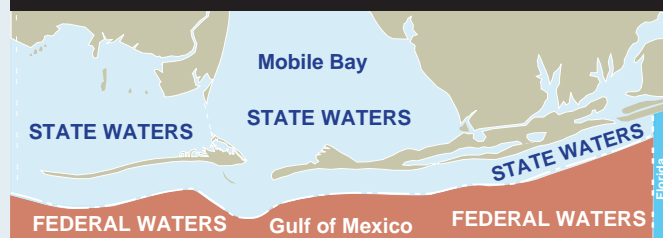
REGULATIONS

All fishing regulations are subject to change, so before going fishing check with the Marine Resources Division for any changes. Gulf Shores: (251) 968-7576, Dauphin Is. (251) 861-2882

REPORT VIOLATIONS

Marine Resources Division
 (251) 476-1256

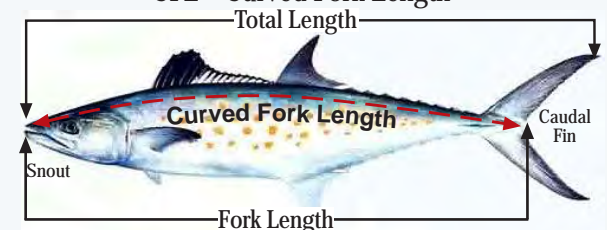
STATE/FEDERAL WATERS DEMARCATION LINE



State/Federal Boundary: State waters extend into the Gulf of Mexico 3 miles south of Alabama's coastline from Florida westward along the Fort Morgan peninsula and Dauphin Island to Mississippi; however, the line bulges southward 3 miles from Sand Island. Mississippi and Florida also require saltwater fishing licenses. Florida's state waters extend 9 miles from the coast. You can be fined for straying into another state's waters with fish caught in Alabama or federal waters.

FISH MEASUREMENT

TL = Total Length, FL = Fork Length
 CFL = Curved Fork Length



Use the following procedures to determine the length of a fish:

1. For total length (TL) place the fish on a flat surface with jaw closed. Squeeze tail together and turn it in such a way to obtain maximum total length.
2. For fork length (FL) measure in a straight line from the tip of snout to deepest notch in tail.
3. For curved fork length (CFL - tunas only) measure using flexible rule from tip of upper jaw to deepest notch in tail. (see illustration).