



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



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AUGUST 2019

**COMMERCIAL 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 FOR UPDATED INFORMATION. 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

<b>Species</b>	<b>Commercial Possession</b>	<b>Minimum Length in Inches</b>
Red Snapper	see (1) and (4) on reverse	13" TL
Cobia (Ling)	2	36" TL
Gray Triggerfish	16 per vessel	14" TL
Gag Grouper	see (1) and (4) on reverse	22" TL
Red Grouper	see (1) and (4) on reverse	18" TL
Black Grouper	see (1) and (4) on reverse	24" TL
Yellowfin Grouper	see (1) and (4) on reverse	20" TL
Scamp	see (1) and (4) on reverse	16" TL
Florida Pompano	3	12" TL
Vermilion Snapper	see (1) No Bag Limit	10" TL
Lane Snapper	see (1) No Bag Limit	8" TL
Gray Snapper	see (1) No Bag Limit	12" TL
Tripletail (Blackfish)	3	18" TL
Flounder*	40	14" TL
King Mackerel	see (4) on reverse	24" TL
Greater Amberjack	see (1) and (4) on reverse	36" TL
Mullet	see (2) on reverse	No Size Limit
All Sharks	see (1) and (4) on reverse	No Size Limit
Sheepshead	No Bag Limit	12" TL

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

<b>Large Coastal Sharks:</b>	<b>Prohibited Species:</b>
<b>Ridgeback Sharks</b> - Tiger <b>Non-ridgeback Sharks</b> - Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner	<b>Goliath grouper, Nassau grouper</b> <b>Rays:</b> Atlantic manta, spotted eagle ray <b>Sharks:</b> Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye thresher, dusky, longfin mako, smalltail, sand tiger, whale shark, white shark, largetooth and smalltooth sawfish, bigeye sixgill, bignose, Caribbean reef, night, sevengill, sixgill, and sandbar (unless the fishermen possesses a NOAA Fisheries sandbar shark research permit.)

**NO POSSESSION 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.**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age gender, national origin, or disability in its hiring practices nor in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities.

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**(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.

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Alabama seafood dealers may purchase other seafood from federally permitted fishermen fishing the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) only if such fishermen possess a state commercial fishing license.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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, except:** 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. Shark fishing in Alabama waters is allowed from 12:01 AM each Monday through 11:59 PM each Friday (no weekends), but shall be closed 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.

(a) 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 Gulf Reef Fish, king mackerel, and sharks. 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.

- 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 red drum, spotted seatrout, striped bass (caught under AMRD jurisdiction), or tarpon caught in Alabama waters
- Season closes in state waters for Gulf Reef Fish, king mackerel, and sharks upon closure of federal Waters.
- 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 fishermen shall not possess game fish (spotted seatrout, red drum, striped bass caught under AMRD jurisdiction, and tarpon). They may use a recreational license and adhere to all bag and creel limits**

Saltwater finfish commercially harvested in 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).