

ALABAMA RECREATIONAL FISHING

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 THE UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE FISHERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

A SALTWATER FISHING LICENSE IS REQUIRED FOR **ALL PERSONS FISHING OR POSSESSING FISH IN SALTWATER AREAS OF ALABAMA**. RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 ARE EXEMPT. RESIDENTS AGE 65 AND OVER ARE EXEMPT. **RESIDENTS** MAY FISH FROM A **LICENSED PUBLIC FISHING PIER** IN THE INSIDE WATERS WITHOUT PURCHASING A FISHING LICENSE. A SALTWATER FISHING LICENSE IS ALSO REQUIRED IF USING A CAST NET, GIG, BOW, CRAB TRAP OR SPEARFISHING.

Alabama residents 65 and older, lifetime saltwater license holders, and those fishing from licensed public fishing piers must be registered with the Alabama Saltwater Angler Registry (www.outdooralabama.com/licenses).

RECREATIONAL SIZE, DAILY CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR STATE WATERS - REVISED Summer 2026

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Sheepshead	12" min FL	8 per person
Spotted Seatrout	15" min TL 22" min TL	6 per person 1 oversized fish
Red Drum (Redfish)	16" min TL 26" max TL	3 per person
Cobia (Ling)	36" min FL	1 per person not to exceed 2 per vessel
King Mackerel	24" min FL	3 per person
Spanish Mackerel	none	15 per person
Florida Pompano	12" min TL	3 per person
Tripletail (Blackfish)	18" min TL	3 per person
Flounder ⁶	14" min TL	5 per person
Striped Bass *	16" min TL	2 per person
Greater Amberjack *	34" min FL	1 per person
Lesser Amberjack	14" - 22" FL	***
Almaco Jack *	none	20 per person
Banded Rudderfish	14" - 22" FL	***
Yellowfin Tuna	27" min CFL	3 per person
Bigeye Tuna	27" min CFL	no creel limit
Gag Grouper***	24" min TL	2 per person **
Red Grouper**	20" min TL	2 per person **
Black Grouper***	24" min TL	4 per person **
Snowy Grouper***	none	4 per person **
Warsaw Grouper***	none	1 per person ** 1 per vessel
Yellowedge Grouper***	none	4 per person **
Yellowfin Grouper**	20" min TL	4 per person **
Yellowmouth Grouper***	none	4 per person **
Scamp***	16" min TL	4 per person **

* Only two Striped Bass are allowed within MRD Jurisdiction

** Mixed species grouper aggregate creel limit : 4 per person (No more than 2 red grouper and no more than 2 gag grouper included in aggregate)

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	10 per person
• Lane	10" min TL	***
Gray Triggerfish *	15" min FL	1 per person ***
Tarpon	60" min TL	\$61.00 tag required
Mullet	none	†
Sharks		
• Sharpnose, Bonnethead	none	1 per person per day
• Hammerhead, Great	78" min FL	1 per person per day
• Hammerhead, Smooth	78" min FL	1 per person per day
• Hammerhead, Scalloped	78" min FL	1 per person per day
• All Other Shark Species	54" min FL 30" dressed length ⁸	1 per person per day
Skates, Rays ⁷	none	3 per person ⁷
Blue Marlin	99" min LJF	
White Marlin	66" min LJF	
Sailfish	63" min LJF	
Swordfish	47" min LJF	1 per person 4 per vessel
Tilefish *** (Blueline, Golden, Goldface)	none	20 per person ***

*** There is a twenty (20) fish aggregate creel limit for reef fish species for which there is no other creel limit.

⁴ Alabama state waters open and close along with federal regulations.

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/bulletins/fishery_bulletins.htm

† Oct. 24 - Dec. 31, 25 mullet per person from the shoreline or 25 perboat. No mullet by cast net or snagging in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, Fowl River, and their tributaries.

⁶ The taking or possession of flounder from Nov. 1 - Nov. 30 is prohibited

⁷ (Full retention when using bow, spear, or gig and it shall be unlawful to remove the tail from any released skate or ray)

⁸ Dressed Length is the length of the shark with the head and tail removed

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

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

Any fish possessed in Alabama and harvested in federal or waters of another state that does not have a size, bag or creel limit must abide by Alabama size, bag and creel limits of that species.

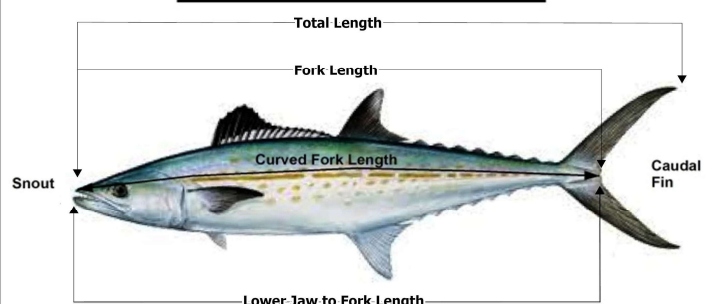
State - Federal Boundary

Gulf Reef Fish – State Waters extend 9 nautical miles (nm) from the beach (including Pelican /Sand Island) into the Gulf of Mexico.

All other species – State Waters extend 3 nm from the beach (including Pelican/Sand Island) into the Gulf of Mexico

Prohibited Species: Goliath Grouper, Nassau Grouper, Atlantic Angel Shark, Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark, Bigeye Thresher Shark, Bignose Shark, Caribbean Reef Shark, Caribbean, Sharpnose Shark, Galapagos Shark, Narrowtooth Shark, Night Shark, Sevengill Shark, Bigeye Sixgill Shark, Dusky Shark, Shortfin Mako Shark, Longfin Mako Shark, Sand Tiger Shark, Basking Shark, Whale Shark, White Shark, Smalltail Shark, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Spotted Eagle Ray, Atlantic Manta, Sixgill Shark, Sandbar Shark (unless the fisherman possesses a NOAA Fisheries sandbar shark research permit).

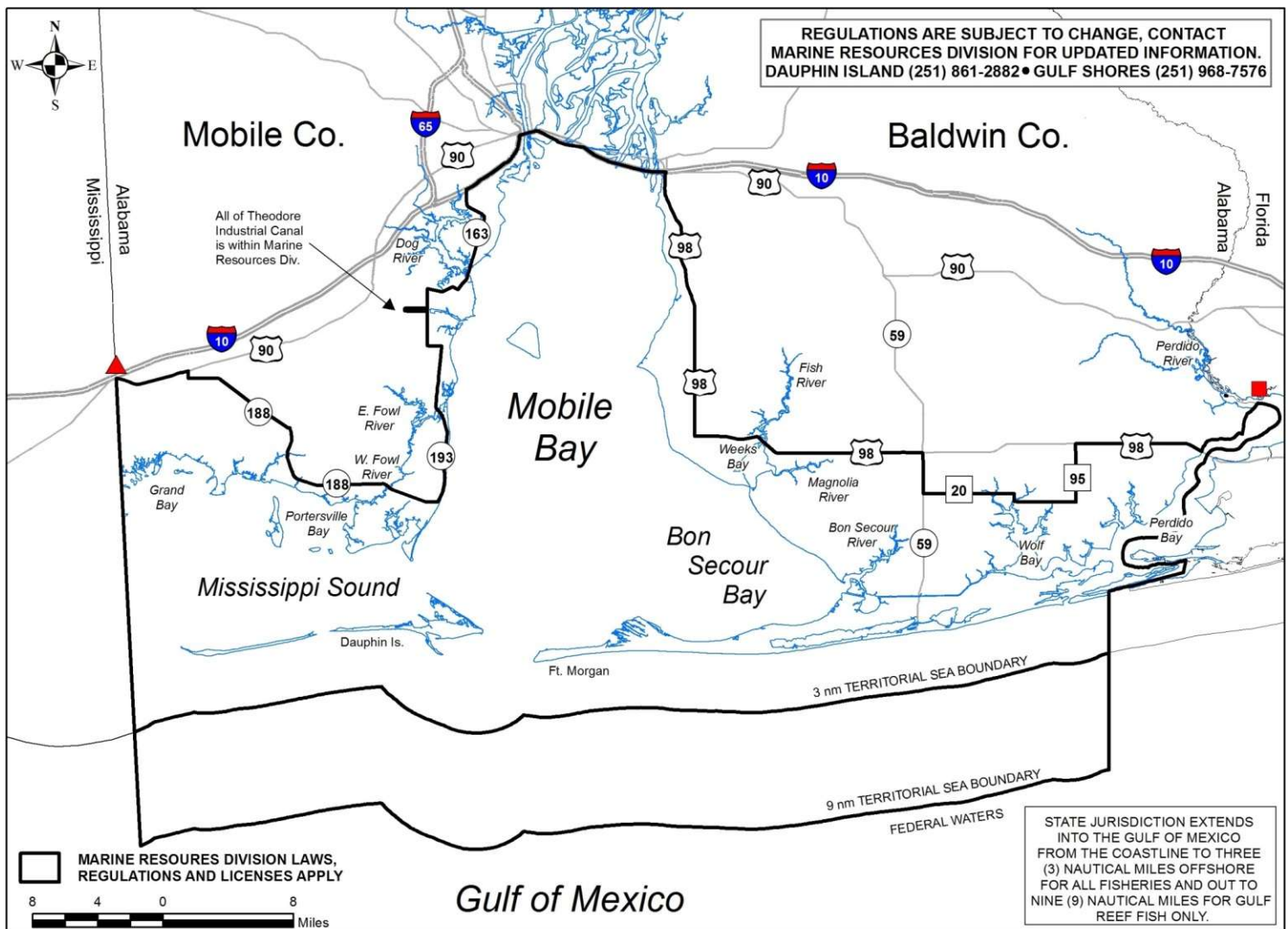
FISH MEASUREMENT



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION JURISDICTION

▲ Beginning at the Mississippi state line, a **Saltwater Fishing License is required** in those waters south of a meandering line following U.S. Highway 90 eastwardly to its junction with State Highway 188; State Highway 188 eastwardly to its junction with State Highway 193; /State Highway 193 northwardly (all of Theodore Industrial Canal is in Marine Resources Div. jurisdiction) to its junction with State Highway 163; /State Highway 163 northwardly to its intersection with Interstate Highway 10; Interstate Highway 10 eastbound lane (exc. that portion of Interstate 10 which lies north of U.S. Highway 90 Battleship Parkway) to Interstate Highway 10's intersection with U.S. 98; U.S. Highway 98 southwardly and easterly to its intersection with State Highway 59; State Highway 59 southwardly to its intersection with Baldwin Co. Highway 20; Baldwin Co. Highway 20 eastwardly to its intersection with Baldwin Co. Highway 95; Baldwin Co. Highway 95 northwardly to its intersection with U.S. Highway 98; U.S. Highway 98 eastwardly to its intersection with the western shore of Perdido Bay; From the west shore of Perdido Bay northwardly to the intersection of the Florida state line and the mouth of the Perdido River. ■



Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries laws, regulations, and licensing requirements apply to all fresh water lakes (farm ponds etc....), within Marine Resources Division jurisdiction (waters within the dark outline). All of Theodore Industrial Canal is within Marine Resources Division jurisdiction.

THIS INFORMATIONAL SHEET WAS COMPILED BY MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION.