



Names, addresses and phone numbers of two persons, besides the angler, who witnessed the weight of the fish;

1<sup>st</sup> Witness

---

Witness to Weight Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Witness

---

Witness to Weight Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

---

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Marine Resources Fish ID Verification: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ by photos      \_\_\_\_\_ in person      \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)      \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Fish may be brought to a Marine Resources Division office for verification of species.  
Application and photos may be emailed to: [marine.resources@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:marine.resources@dcnr.alabama.gov).  
To schedule Marine Resources Division species verification, call Mon-Fri 8am-5pm,  
Dauphin Island: 251-861-2882 or Gulf Shores: 251-968-7576.

## RULES FOR ESTABLISHING ALABAMA SALTWATER FISH RECORDS

1. Angler must leave and return to an Alabama port without making landfall in another state, except in cases of emergencies involving safety of the boat or crew.
2. An official application must be submitted to the Marine Resources Division at [marine.resources@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:marine.resources@dcnr.alabama.gov) or at a Marine Resources office within 30 days of the catch. Marine Resources must verify the species prior to or during the submission of the application.
3. Application must include the following photos:
  - a. the fish and the recorded weight of the fish while on the scale
  - b. whole fish viewed from the side
  - c. close ups of dorsal and anal fins extended
  - d. any distinct features such as large teeth, finlets, scutes, barbels etc.
4. Weighing of fish must be witnessed and attested to by two persons not related to the angler and fish must be weighed on certified scales. Record date scales were inspected.
5. Fish must be caught using a conventional rod and a non-powered reel, as allowed by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) rules, using natural or artificial bait.
6. Fish must be on the list of accepted species established by the IGFA, unless otherwise certified by the State Record Fish Committee.
7. Size of fish must be representative of the species. The weight must fall into the top half of the maximum reported weight for the species. If a recognized weight is not available, then the top half of recognized length would be accepted. The minimum weight for any species is one pound.
8. To replace a record for a fish weighing less than 25 pounds, the replacement must weigh at least 2 ounces more than the existing record. To replace a record for a fish weighing 25 pounds or more, the replacement fish must weigh at least one-half of 1 percent more than the existing record.

Example: at 50 pounds, the additional weight required would be 4 ounces.
9. Any fish, which matches the weight of an existing record or exceeds the weight by less than the amount required to defeat the record would be considered a tie. In the case of a tie claim involving more than two fish, weights must be compared with the original record (first fish to be caught).
10. Applications must be reviewed and approved by a majority of the State Record Fish Committee. Their decision is final.
11. The angler on the application is the only one allowed to fight the fish. Assistance in gaffing or netting is allowed. Applicant must be in possession of the fish.
12. Fish should be kept (frozen) for at least 15 days after forwarding of application, should there be any question regarding identification or weight of the fish. An employee of Marine Resources may request the fish be returned to the Marine Resources Division for further inspection. If the fish is not available for verification the application will not be accepted.
13. For additional guidance, the IGFA rules will be referenced.