Basic Recreational Fishing Regulations

This brief summary of regulations governs the taking of species in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico for personal use. Federal waters begin where state waters end and extend 200 miles. The absence of complete laws, rules and regulations in this summary does not relieve persons from compliance with those laws, rules or regulations.

Some species are subject to in-season closures. Please click on the fish for more detailed information, or check with the Council.

Snapper	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Red Snapper	Closed					Open June 1 16" TL 2 per person Proposed through July 10, 2012		Closed		→		Closed
Vermilion	←				Open 10" TL 20 within the 20 reef fish aggregate					→		
Lane Snapper	←				Open 8" TL 20 within the 20 reef fish aggregate					→		
Gray/Mangrove	←				Open 12" TL 10 within the snapper aggregate					→		
Cubera	←				Open 12" TL 10 within the snapper aggregate					→		
Yellowtail	←				Open 12" TL 10 within the snapper aggregate					→		
Mutton Snapper	←				Open 16" TL 10 within the snapper aggregate					→		
Blackfin Snapper	←				Open No Size Limit 10 within the snapper aggregate					→		
Silk Snapper	←				Open No Size Limit 10 within the snapper aggregate					→		
Queen Snapper	←				Open No Size Limit 10 within the snapper aggregate					→		

Grouper	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black Grouper	Open	Closed February 1 through March 31		Open 22″ TL 4 per person in aggregate								
Gag	Closed			Closed			Open July 1 - Oct 31 22″ TL 2 per person in aggregate				Closed	
Red Grouper	Open			Open 20″ TL 4 per person in aggregate								
Yellowfin	Open	Closed February 1 through March 31		Open 20″ TL 4 per person in aggregate								
Scamp	Open			Open 16″ TL 4 per person in aggregate								
Yellowmouth	Open			Open No Size Limit 4 per person in aggregate								
Yellowedge	Open No Size Limit 4 per person in aggregate											
Snowy	Open No Size Limit 4 per person in aggregate											
Speckled Hind	Open No Size Limit 1 fish per vessel											
Warsaw	Open No Size Limit 1 fish per vessel											
Goliath	Harvest Prohibited											

Other Reef Fish	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hogfish	Open 12″ FL 5 per person											
Gray Triggerfish	Open 14″ FL part of a 20 reef fish aggregate Subject to reduced season length											
Greater Amberjack	Open 30″ FL 1 per person					Closed June 1 - July 31		Open 30″ FL 1 per person Subject to in-season closure				
Lesser Amberjack	Open 14″ - 22″ FL 5 per person in aggregate											
Banded Rudderfish	Open 14″ - 22″ FL 5 per person in aggregate											

Coastal Pelagics	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cobia (ling)			←			Open 33″ FL 2 per person				→		
Spanish Mackerel			←			Open 12″ FL 15 per person				→		
King Mackerel			←			Open 24″ FL 2 per person				→		

Shellfish	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spiny Lobster	Open 3″ minimum carapace Must be measured in water			Closed April 1 through August 5 NOTE: 2 Day Mini-season last consecutive Wednesday/Thursday in July				Open 3″ minimum carapace Must be measured in water				