



Pocket Guide to Bag and Size Limits of Saltwater Fishes and Crabs

**Effective September 1, 2011
Expires August 31, 2012**

For further information on fishing rules refer to the
Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual
or call (800) 792-1112.

Provided by the Coastal Fisheries Division
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

SPORT ANGLER BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS OF SALTWATER FISHES AND CRABS

NOTE: Possession limit is twice the daily bag **EXCEPT** as listed below. There are no bag, possession or size limits on fish or crabs **EXCEPT** as listed below.

Species	Daily Bag	Min. Size (Inches)	Max. Size (Inches)
Amberjack, greater	1	34	No Lim.
Bass, striped	5	18	No Lim.
Catfish, gafftopsail	No Lim.	14	No Lim.
Cobia	2	37	No Lim.
Drum, black ^a	5	14	30 ^a
Drum, red ^b	3	20	28 ^b
Flounder ^c	5/2 ^c	14	No Lim.
Gar, alligator	1	No Lim	No Lim.
Grouper, gag	2	22	No Lim.
Grouper, goliath	0	Catch & Release Only	
Mackerel, king	2	27	No Lim.
Mackerel, Spanish	15	14	No Lim.
Marlin, blue	No Lim.	131	No Lim.
Marlin, white	No Lim.	86	No Lim.
Mullet ^d	No Lim.	No Lim.	12 ^d
Sailfish	No Lim.	84	No Lim.
Seatrout, spotted ^{e, f}	10 ^e	15	25 ^f
Shark: Atlantic sharpnose,			
blacktip, bonnethead	1	24	No Lim.
Shark: allowable species	1	64	No Lim.
Shark: prohibited species ^g	0	Catch & Release Only	
Sheepshead	5	15	No Lim.
Snapper, lane	No Lim.	8	No Lim.
Snapper, red ^h	4	15	No Lim.
Snapper, vermilion	No Lim.	10	No Lim.
Snook	1	24	28
Tarpon	1	85	No Lim.
Triggerfish, grey	20	16	No Lim.
Tripletail	3	17	No Lim.
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Blue Crab ⁱ	No Lim.	5	No Lim.
Stone Crab ^j	No Lim.	2 1/2	No Lim.
Ghost Shrimp	20 ^k	No Lim.	No Lim.

Limits may change due to legislative or Commission Action

- a One black drum over 52" as part of daily bag and possession limit.
- b One red drum over 28" allowed per license year with a properly filled out red drum tag or bonus red drum tag. This may be taken in addition to the daily bag limit.
- c Flounder possession limit is 5 fish. For the period Nov. 1-30, flounder may be taken using hook and line only. Possession limit during the period Nov. 1-30 is 2 fish.
- d May not take from public waters or possess on board a boat mullet over 12" during Oct., Nov., Dec., and Jan. No limits apply during other months.
- e The spotted seatrout daily bag and possession limit is 5 for the lower Laguna Madre south of Marker 21 (ICWW) in the landcut, including South Bay, the Brownsville Ship Channel, the Arroyo Colorado, and the water within the jetties to the extreme eastern tip of each jetty.
- f One spotted seatrout over 25" is allowed per person per day; and counts as part of the daily bag limit.
- g Prohibited shark species are as follows: Atlantic angel, Basking, Bigeye sand tiger, Bigeye sixgill, Bigeye thresher, Bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White
- h Red snapper may be taken using pole and line, but it is unlawful to use any hook other than a circle hook.
- i May not retain or possess egg-bearing (sponge) crabs or female crabs that have had the apron removed. Blue crabs are measured across the widest point of the body from tip of spine to tip of spine.
- j Only the right claw may be retained. The body must be returned immediately to the water from which it was taken. Claws are measured from the tip of the immovable claw to the first joint behind the claw.
- k May not possess more than 20 ghost shrimp per person at any time.

Total Length—Perpendicular distance from tip of snout (mouth closed) to extreme tip of tail. The tail should be squeezed together or rotated to produce the maximum overall length.

The Ethical Angler

- *Respects other anglers' rights*
 - *Respects the rights of others who use the resource*
 - *Keeps only the fish he/she wants*
 - *Never wastes fish*
 - *Releases unwanted fish carefully and unharmed*
 - *Never litters or pollutes the waters*
 - *Knows and follows angling and boating regulations*
 - *Continually seeks new knowledge and skill*
 - *Shares his/her knowledge with others*
 - *Promotes the sport of fishing*
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Report game or fishing violations.

Call 1 + (800) 792-GAME

Regulations in federal waters (>9nm from shore) may differ from state regulations. For federal information call toll-free **(888) 833-1844**.

If you find a fish tag, please return to:
Rockport Marine Lab • 702 Navigation Circle
Rockport, TX 78382 • (361) 729-2328