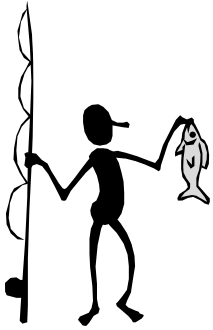




Everglades Fishing Regulations

Everglades National Park supports Catch-and-Release



Navigable waters cover one third of Everglades National Park, creating excellent fishing opportunities. Please remember to exercise caution while fishing in the Everglades. Check weather and tide predictions and be prepared for mosquitoes. Always carry a nautical chart and compass and leave a float plan with family and friends.

Please remember that collecting plants and animals in the Everglades is prohibited. This includes orchids, air plants, sea horses, starfish, conch, tropical fish, lobster, coral, sponges, driftwood and seashells.

The following regulations are intended to supplement the Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulations. Visitors must be aware of Florida state laws, rules, and regulations. For more information on licensing and state fishing regulations, visit www.marinefisheries.org.

Fishing Regulations

Freshwater or Saltwater?

All waters from and including, Nine Mile Pond northward, along the Main Park Road are considered fresh water.

Prohibited Fishing Gear

Seines, nets, and lobster snares are prohibited. The use and possession of spear guns, spear poles, and firearms are prohibited. Dip nets, cast nets (10' or less) and landing nets are allowed.

Freshwater Fishing

License

A Florida freshwater fishing license is required for park visitors 16 years or older to fish in freshwater or to possess freshwater species.

Bait

Live or dead fish (including minnows and shiners) or amphibians, and non-preserved fish eggs or roe are prohibited. Digging for bait inside the park is not permitted.

Saltwater Fishing

License

A Florida saltwater fishing license is required for park visitors 16 years or older to fish in saltwater or possess saltwater species. Effective Aug. 1, 2009, Florida residents fishing from shore are required to possess a saltwater license.

Bait

Bait, except for mullet and shrimp, is not included in bag limits. Saltwater bait includes shrimp, minnows, pilchards, pinfish, mullet, mojarras (shad), or ballyhoo. Bait may be taken with hook and line, dip net (not wider than three feet), and cast net (not larger than ten feet from horn to lead line).

Closed to Fishing

No fishing is allowed in Eco, Mrazek, Coot Bay Ponds, or the boardwalk at West Lake at any time. No fishing is allowed at any park marina during daylight hours.

Manatee Etiquette

Areas frequented by manatees have been posted. Keep an eye out for manatees. Slow to an idle if observed, but do not approach.

Shrimp

Shrimp may be taken by dip net (not wider than three feet) or cast net (not larger than ten feet from horn to lead line), for personal use only.

See Reverse Side for Closures, Limits & Size Restrictions. Other notes:

*Indicates species with more restrictive regulations than those listed in Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations. For additional information on licensing and fishing regulations visit www.marinefisheries.org or www.myfwc.com, or call 888-FISHFLO (347-4356).

^Other size and bag limits may apply outside the Everglades National Park and Gulf waters. See the Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations.

-Licensed anglers are limited to possession of 20 fish per person at any time, but may possess only 10 fish of any one species. There is no possession limit for non-native fish species.

-Harvest, landing, and sale of the following species is **Prohibited**:

-Goliath Grouper (formerly known as Jewfish), Nassau

Filleting Fish

Anglers may have four (4) fillets per person for immediate consumption at designated campsites or on board vessels equipped with cooking facilities. All other fish must remain whole while on park waters.

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is prohibited in Everglades National Park.

Closed to Fishing

No fishing is allowed in the Ernest F. Coe (Main) Visitor Center lakes, Royal Palm Visitor Center area and trails, Chekika Lake, along the first three miles of the Main Park Road, including Taylor Slough, or along the Shark Valley Tram Road.

Fishing/boating/canoeing/kayaking is closed in the Crocodile Sanctuary in Northeastern Florida Bay (see ENP boating regulations for details).

Aquatic Life

With the exception of finfish, shrimp, crabs, and bait, the possession or disturbance of any fresh or saltwater aquatic life is prohibited.

Flats Etiquette

Propeller damage to seagrass beds is harmful to the marine environment. Be extremely careful when navigating in shallow waters and use a push-pole whenever possible. Use the channels in Florida Bay to navigate around flats.

Recreational Crabbing

Stone crabs, during open state season, and blue crabs may be taken by recreational fishermen using attended gear (for example: star trap, baited line, landing net, etc.). Crabbers are limited to five (5) traps. Crabbing with unattended gear is prohibited.

Warning!

High levels of mercury have been found in Everglades bass and in some fish species in northern Florida Bay. Do not eat bass caught north of the main park road more than once a week. Children and pregnant women should not eat any bass. The following saltwater species caught in northern Florida Bay should not be consumed more than once a week by adults, or once a month by children and women of child-bearing age: Spotted Seatrout, Gafftopsail Catfish, Bluefish, Crevalle Jack, or Ladyfish.

Grouper, lobster, oysters, scallops, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largemouth Sawfish, Basking Shark, Caribbean Sharpnose Shark, Lemon Shark, Sandbar Shark, Silky Shark, Whale Shark, Tiger Shark, Smooth, Great, and Scalloped Hammerhead and Spotted Eagle Ray.

-Using live or dead bait on a multiple hook (such as a treble hook) while fishing for Black Drum, Pompano, Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, or Snook is prohibited. Snagging the above species is also prohibited.

-Anglers must comply with all de-hooking, venting, and circle hook requirements for reef fish. (R) next to species represents reef fish.



-For Permit see www.myfwc.com for Special Protection Zone (SPZ)

-This information is correct as of January 2012. You are responsible for knowing any revisions.

Everglades National Park Catch Limit

(F) Fork Length: Fish is measured from the tip of the nose to the rear center of the fork of the tail.

(T) Total Length: Straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed and squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Limit	Remarks
Black Drum	14" - 24" (T)		5/person/day	Only one fish over 24" per person.
Blue Crab	None		10 gal whole/person/day	Egg bearing crabs may not be taken. Five attended traps maximum.
Bluefish	12" (F)		10/person/day	
Bonefish		CLOSED INDEFINITELY		Designated Catch & Release only
Cobia	33" (F)		1/person/day or 6/vessel whichever is less	
Flounder	12" (T)		10/person/day	
Grouper (Gag) (R)	24"(T) (Monroe)	See www.myfwc.com for a list of Grouper Closed Seasons.	1 Black OR Gag/ person/day (Monroe) 4 Black, 2 Gag/ person/day (Collier)	 <p>Aggregate Grouper Bag Limit: 3 Grouper (Monroe) 4 Grouper (Collier)</p> <p>Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.</p> <p>All Grouper are Reef Fish – comply with all de-hooking, venting and circle hook requirements.</p>
Grouper (Black) (R)	22" (T) (Collier)			
Grouper (Yellowfin, Yellowmouth) (R)	20" (T)		3/person/day(Monroe) 4/person/day(Collier)	
Grouper (Scamp)(R)	20" (T) Monroe 16" (T) Collier		3/person/day(Monroe) 4/person/day(Collier)	
Grouper, all others(R) (Rock Hind, Red Hind, Coney, Graysby, Tiger)	None		3/person/day(Monroe) 4/person/day(Collier)	
Grouper (Red) (R)	20" (T)		3/person/day(Monroe) 4/person/day(Collier)	
Grouper (Warsaw, Speckled Hind) (R)	None		1/vessel/day of each species	
Hogfish (R)	12" (F)		5/person/day	
Largemouth Bass*	Less than 14" (T)		5/person/day	No more than one fish over 14" per person.
Mackerel (Spanish)*	12" (F)		10/person/day	
Mullet (Striped & Silver)	Less than 8" (T) (bait fish)		50/vessel Sept1-Jan.31 100/vessel Feb1-Aug 31.	If mullet are more than 8" in length, then limit is 10 per person. Aggregate includes Striped & Silver.
Permit	11" - 22" (F) 22"(F) SPZ	SPZ May 1- July 31	2/person/day 1/person/day SPZ	No more than one fish over 22" per person. Vessel Limit: no more than 2 fish over 22" at any time. 2 per/vessel SPZ.
Pompano	11" (F)		6/person/day	
Red Drum (Redfish)	18" - 27" (T)		1/person/day	Cannot buy or sell native Redfish.
Spotted Seatrout	15" - 20" (T)		4/person/day	No more than one trout over 20" per person.
Shark	54" (F)		1/person/day or 2/ vessel/day, whichever is less	Size limit exceptions: Atlantic Sharpnose, Blacknose, Blacktip, Bonnethead, Finetooth and Smooth Dogfish SEE LIST ON REVERSE SIDE FOR prohibited species
Sheepshead*	12" (T)		10/person/day	
Shrimp	None		5 gallons, head on, per vessel	Must be landed in whole condition.
Snapper (Gray, Mangrove)(R)	10" (T)		5/person/day	 <p>No more than 10 Snapper of all species combined can be possessed at any one time.</p> <p>All Snapper are Reef Fish– comply with all de-hooking, venting and circle hook requirements</p> <p>Red Snapper (Collier): zero daily bag limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels.</p> <p>Lane Snapper (Collier): not included</p>
Snapper (Schoolmaster) (R)	10" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Mutton)(R)	16" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Red)^ (R)	20" (T) (Monroe) 16" (T) (Collier)	July 19 - May 31 (Collier)	2/person/day	
Snapper(Yellowtail/Dog) (R)	12" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Lane) (R)	8" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Vermilion) (R)	12" (T) (Monroe) 10" (T) (Collier)	Nov.1– Mar. 31 (Monroe)	5/person/day (Monroe) 10/person/day (Collier)	Not included in the Snapper aggregate bag limit (E.N.P.)
Snook* All Species		CLOSED - through August 31, 2012		Fishing guides cannot possess. Cannot buy or sell. Snook stamp required.
Stone Crab Claws	2 3/4" forearm	May 16 - Oct. 14	1 gal/person/day or 2 gal/vessel, whichever is less	Legal claws may be taken but crab must be returned to water. Five attended traps maximum. Harvest of egg-bearing crabs prohibited.
Tarpon	None		2 fish possession limit	Requires \$50 Tarpon tag to possess or harvest.
Tripletail	15" (T)		2/person/day	Hook and line only. No snatch hooks.
Weakfish*	12" (T)		10/person/day	