**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 or 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, and driftwood. One quart of non-occupied seashells may be collected per person per day.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fishing Regulations</th>
<th>Freshwater or Saltwater?</th>
<th>Saltwater Fishing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All waters from and including, Nine Mile Pond northward, along the Main Park Road are considered fresh water.</td>
<td>Saltwater fishing in Everglades National Park is almost entirely in Monroe County.</td>
<td>Aquatic Life&lt;br&gt;With the exception of finfish, shrimp, crabs, and bait, the possession or disturbance of any fresh or saltwater aquatic life is prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prohibited Fishing Gear</strong></td>
<td>License</td>
<td>Flats Etiquette&lt;br&gt;Propeller damage to seagrass beds is harmful to the marine environment. Be extremely careful when navigating in shallow waters and use a pushpule whenever possible. Use the channels in Florida Bay to navigate around flats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seines, nets, and lobster snares are prohibited. The use and possession of spear guns, spear poles, and firearms are prohibited. Dip nets, cast nets (not to or less) and landing nets are allowed.</td>
<td>A Florida freshwater fishing license is required for park visitors 16 years or older to fish in freshwater or to possess freshwater species.</td>
<td>Recreational Crabbing&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Freshwater Fishing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License</th>
<th>Saltwater Fishing</th>
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<tr>
<td>A Florida freshwater fishing license is required for park visitors 16 years or older to fish in freshwater or to possess freshwater species.</td>
<td>Aquatic Life&lt;br&gt;With the exception of finfish, shrimp, crabs, and bait, the possession or disturbance of any fresh or saltwater aquatic life is prohibited.</td>
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**Saltwater Fishing**

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<tr>
<th>License</th>
<th>Flats Etiquette&lt;br&gt;Propeller damage to seagrass beds is harmful to the marine environment. Be extremely careful when navigating in shallow waters and use a pushpule whenever possible. Use the channels in Florida Bay to navigate around flats.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Florida saltwater fishing license is required for park visitors 16 years or older to fish in saltwater or possess saltwater species. Florida residents fishing from shore do not need a license.</td>
<td>Recreational Crabbing&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bait</th>
<th>Warning!&lt;br&gt;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 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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Warning!&lt;br&gt;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 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.</td>
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</table>

**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. | Warning!<br>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 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. |

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, and driftwood. One quart of non-occupied seashells may be collected per person per day.

| Prohibited Fishing Gear | Filleting Fish<br>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 in the park. |
| Seines, nets, and lobster snares are prohibited. The use and possession of spear guns, spear poles, and firearms are prohibited. Dip nets, cast nets (not to or less) and landing nets are allowed. | Commercial Fishing<br>Commercial fishing is prohibited in Everglades National Park. |

| Baited line, landing net, etc.). Crabbers are limited to five (5) traps. Crabbing with unattended gear is prohibited. | Recreational Crabbing<br>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. |

**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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Size Limit</th>
<th>Closed Season</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>14&quot; - 24&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/person/day</td>
<td>Only one fish over 24&quot; per person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Crab</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 gal whole/person/day</td>
<td>Egg bearing crabs may not be taken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>12&quot; (F)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonefish</td>
<td>18&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>33&quot; (F)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/person/day, or 6/vessel, whichever is less</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flounder</td>
<td>12&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper (Black, Gag) (R)</td>
<td>24&quot; (T) Monroe</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/person/day (Monroe)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper (Red) (R)</td>
<td>20&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/person/day (Gulf)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper (Scamp) (R)</td>
<td>20&quot; (T) Monroe</td>
<td>16&quot; (T) Gulf (excluding Monroe)</td>
<td>5/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper (Warsaw, Speckled Hind) (R)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/vessel/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogfish (R)</td>
<td>12&quot; (F)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/person/day</td>
<td>No more than one fish over 14&quot; per person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass*</td>
<td>Less than 14&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel (Spanish)*</td>
<td>12&quot; (F)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullet* (Black, Striped)</td>
<td>Less than 8&quot; (T) (bait fish)</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>More than 8&quot; in length: limit is 10 per person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permit/Pompano</td>
<td>11&quot; - 20&quot; (F)</td>
<td></td>
<td>6/person/day</td>
<td>No more than one fish over 20&quot; per person. Aggregate bag limit of 10 per person per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redfish</td>
<td>18&quot; - 27&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/person/day</td>
<td>Cannot buy or sell native Redfish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Trout</td>
<td>15&quot; - 20&quot; (T)</td>
<td>Nov. 1 - Dec. 31</td>
<td>4/person/day</td>
<td>No more than one trout over 20&quot; per person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>1/person/day or 2/vessel/day, whichever is less</td>
<td>See list below for protected species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheepshead*</td>
<td>12&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 gallons, head on, per person or vessel per day, whichever is less</td>
<td>Must be landed in whole condition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper (Gray, Mangrove) (R)</td>
<td>10&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper (Schoolmaster) (R)</td>
<td>10&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper (Lane) (R)</td>
<td>8&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper (Mutton) (R)</td>
<td>16&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper (Red)^ (R)</td>
<td>16&quot; (T) Gulf</td>
<td>Nov. 1 - Apr. 14</td>
<td>2/person/day (Gulf)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper (Yellowtail) (R)</td>
<td>12&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper (Vermilion) (R)</td>
<td>10&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/person/day</td>
<td>Not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snook*</td>
<td>28&quot; - 33&quot; (T) Gulf</td>
<td>May 1 - Aug. 31</td>
<td>1/person/day</td>
<td>Fishing guides cannot possess. Cannot buy or sell. Snook stamp required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Crab Claws</td>
<td>2 3/4 &quot; forearm</td>
<td>May 16 - Oct. 14</td>
<td>1 gal/person/day or 2 gal vessel, whichever is less</td>
<td>Legal claws may be taken but crab must be returned to water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarpon</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/person/day (2 fish possession limit)</td>
<td>Cannot buy or sell. Requires $50 Tarpon tag to possess or harvest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripletail</td>
<td>15&quot; (T)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/person/day</td>
<td>Hook and line only.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

- Harvest, landing, and sale of the following species is prohibited: Goliath Grouper (formerly known as Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, lobster, oysters, scallops, Smalltooth Sawfish, Large-tooth Sawfish, Basking Shark, Whale Shark, and Spotted Eagle Ray.
- Using live or dead natural bait on a multiple hook (such as a treble hook) while fishing for Black Drum, Pompano, Redfish, Sea Trout, 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.

This information is correct as of July 2008. You are responsible for knowing any revisions.