

**GEORGIA'S  
SALTWATER FISHING  
REGULATIONS**

(2002)



SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE (in.)
<b>INSHORE</b>			
Atlantic Croaker	All Year	25	8TL
Black Drum	All Year	15	10TL
Bluefish	3/16 - 11/30	15	12FL
Flounder	All Year	15	12TL
Red Drum~	All Year	5	14TL
(Spottail Bass)	(Limit may not include any over 23")		
Sharks*	All Year	2**	48TL
	(Limit may not include more than one shark over 84" TL)		
Sheepshead	All Year	15	10FL
Small Shark	All Year	2	30TL
Composite***			
Spot	All Year	25	8TL
Spotted Seatrout	All Year	15	13TL
Tarpon (GF)	3/16 - 11/30	1	68FL
Tripletail	All Year	5	18TL
Weakfish	All Year	6	13TL
(Summer Trout)			
Whiting	All Year	No possession limit	10TL
<b>OFFSHORE</b>			
Blue Marlin~	.....no harvest allowed.....		
White Marlin~	.....no harvest allowed.....		
Sailfish~	.....no harvest allowed.....		
Amberjack~	3/16 - 12/31	1	28 FL
	<i>No sale 4/1 - 4/30</i>		
Cobia~	3/16 - 11/30	2	33 FL
Dolphin~	All Year	10	20 FL
	<i>10 per person not to exceed 60 per boat, except certified headboats which are allowed 10 per paying customer.</i>		
King Mackerel	All Year	3	24 FL
Spanish Mackerel~	3/16 - 11/30	15	12 FL
Black Sea Bass	All Year	20	10 TL
Gag Grouper	All Year	2	24 TL
	<i>No sale 3/1 - 4/30</i>		
Red Snapper	All Year	2	20 TL
Sand Tiger Shark	.....no harvest allowed.....		
Red Porgy	All Year	1	14 TL
	<i>No sale 1/1 - 4/30</i>		

~ indicates different regulations in place in federal waters

- \* **Sharks** includes all species of sharks other than the sand tiger shark (No Take Allowed) and Small Shark Composite.
- \*\* **Daily Creel Limit** is 2 per person or boat whichever is fewer.
- \*\*\* **Small Shark Composite** consists of Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead and spiny dogfish.

**Harvest of Red Drum from federal waters (3-200 miles) is prohibited. All Red Drum caught in federal waters must be immediately released.**

### **LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

Georgia residents and nonresidents, age 16 years and older, are required to have a current Georgia fishing license in their possession while fishing in, returning to, or transiting Georgia waters with recreational catches from federal waters beyond the state's 3-mile territorial sea. Anglers who are younger than 16 are exempt from the license requirement. Residents 65 years of age or older may fish with the Senior (65+) Lifetime License. This license can be obtained for free.

### **DEFINITIONS**

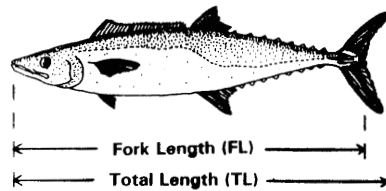
**Note:** The letters "FL" denote fork length and "TL" denote total length.

**"Fishing"** means catching, capturing, taking, or killing fish, mussels and all seafood and includes all lesser acts such as attempting to catch, capture, or kill by any device or method and directly assisting any person in catching or attempting to catch fish or seafood.

**"Daily Creel Limit"** means the lawful amount of a species of finfish that a person may take in one day or possess at any one time, except at one's place of abode or at a commercial storage facility provided that the Board of Natural Resources has not prohibited sales of that species.

**"Minimum Size"** means the size in length below which it is unlawful to possess that finfish species.

**"Open Season"** means that period of time during which one may take from any of the waters of this state certain finfish species.



This card was prepared in March 2003 to inform fishermen about Georgia's saltwater fishing regulations. This card has no legal force or effect. Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen should be aware of the latest regulations before fishing. For updated information, contact Coastal Resources Division at (912) 264-7218. For current federal regulations, contact the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at (843) 571-4366.