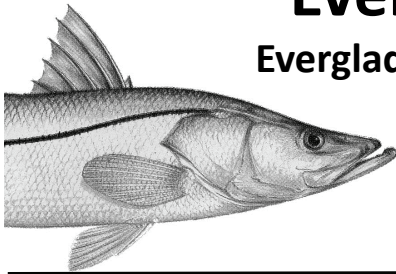




## Everglades Fishing Regulations

### 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.

### Important Information!

*The following regulations are intended to supplement the State of Florida's Recreational Fishing Regulations. Visitors must be aware of Florida state laws, rules, and regulations. Visitors are responsible for knowing the bag limits for individual species. For more information on licensing and state fishing regulations, visit [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com). To obtain Fishing Licenses, visit <https://license.myFWC.com> or call 1-888-347-4356.*

#### 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, trot lines, and lobster snares are prohibited. The use and possession of spears is prohibited. The use of firearms is prohibited for catching fish. Dip nets, cast nets (10' or less) and landing nets are allowed.

##### Collecting

Collecting plants and animals in Everglades

National Park is prohibited. This includes orchids, air-plants, sea horses, starfish, conch, tropical fish, lobster, coral, sponges, driftwood and seashells.

##### 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 in park waters.

##### Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is prohibited in Everglades

#### 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.

##### 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.

#### 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 (greater than 8") 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, and Coot Bay Ponds, or the boardwalk at West Lake at any time. No fishing is allowed at any park marina during daylight hours.

## Saltwater Fishing

(continued)



Scan the above QR for more information on fishing in Everglades National Park.

### 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.

### 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.

### Snake Bight Pole/Troll Zone

To improve visitor experiences and resource protection in the Snake Bight area east of Flamingo, Everglades National Park has designated a pole/troll zone. Boats may only be propelled by push poles, paddles, or electric trolling motors in most areas of the zone. For more information scan the QR to the left, visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/ever](http://www.nps.gov/ever) or ask at a visitor center for a brochure.

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

### Recreational Crabbing

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

### 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.

### Mercury 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.

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## Additional Regulations

- Licensed anglers are limited to possession of 20 fish/person at any time, **but may possess no more than 10 fish of any one species.** *For example: state regulations may allow a take of 15 of a particular species. In Everglades National Park you would only be allowed to take 10 of that particular species such as Spanish Mackerel and Sheepshead.*
- Be aware that the bag limit for many species is less than 10 fish.
- There is no possession limit for non-native species.
- **Harvest, landing, and sale of the following is Prohibited:** Goliath Grouper (formerly (formerly known as Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, lobster, oysters, scallops, Smalltooth & Largetooth Sawfish, Basking Shark, Caribbean Sharpnose Shark, Lemon Shark, Sandbar Shark, Silky Shark, Tiger Shark, Whale Shark, Spotted Eagle Ray, and Great, Scalloped, and Smooth Hammerhead Sharks.
- Using live or dead 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.

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## Other Important Information

- For additional information on licensing and fishing regulations visit [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) or <https://license.myFWC.com>.
- Everglade National Park is in Collier, Monroe and Miami-Dade counties. Size and bag limits may differ in each county and Gulf waters. See the Florida State Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations for more detail at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).

**Note: (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.