

Bringing Fish Back from the Bahamas



As many as 50 recreational boats travel to and from the Bahamas every day.

If you are considering fishing in the Bahamas and bringing fish back to the U.S. by water, here is what you need to know.

- Bahamian and U.S. fishing regulations are not always the same.
- Follow the more restrictive bag and possession limit when traveling to and from the Bahamas.
- Vessels must have valid Bahamian cruising and sportfishing permits. Visit Bahamas.gov.bs for more.
- Passengers must possess a valid government passport with current Bahamian stamps and travel dates.

See reverse side for more



Bringing Fish Back from the Bahamas by water

Fish:

- **Reef fish** (managed as snapper grouper in the U.S.) as well as **dolphin and wahoo** may be brought back from the Bahamas as fillets.
- All other species must be brought back in the condition specified in U.S. federal rules (example: cobia, tuna, swordfish must be brought back in whole condition).

For fish brought back as fillets:

- Skin must remain on the entire fillet.
- Two fillets, regardless of their size, count as one fish toward the bag limit.
- Follow U.S. Atlantic federal bag and vessel limits, as well as seasons.
- Fish brought into the U.S. cannot be sold.
- Travel through U.S. federal and Florida state waters must be continuous and gear must remain stowed. (Terminal gear such as hooks, leaders, sinkers, etc. must be disconnected and stowed separately from rod and reel.)

Spiny Lobster:

- Must be landed in whole condition. Can only be transported into Florida state waters during the Florida recreational season (Aug. 6 – March 31)

Prohibited species:

- Species prohibited from harvest in the U.S. (queen conch, Nassau/goliath grouper, etc.) cannot be transported through U.S. federal and Florida state waters by boat.

Contact the FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management at:

Marine@MyFWC.com, 850-487-0554 or visit MyFWC.com/Fishing

Contact the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at: 843-571-4366 or visit SAFMC.net