



# Bahamas Fisheries

## Rules & Regulations



### Under the Terms of a Sport-Fishing Permit, Each Vessel is Allowed:

- **No More Than Six (6) Fishing Lines in the Water at Any Given Time**
- **In Terms of Demersal Fish (Grouper, Snapper, and other Bottom-Dwelling Fish) – 20 fish or 60 pounds per vessel. Taking of Grouper weighing less than 3 pounds is PROHIBITED. Nassau Grouper are Subject to a Closed-Season, please inquire about exact Dates.**
  - **In Terms of Pelagic Fish (Wahoo, Dolphin, Tuna, Mackerel) - 18 fish per vessel. All other migratory fish caught beyond this limit should be released uninjured.**
    - **Export Limits are Same as Catch Limits**
  - **Lobster – 10 Per Vessel. Tails Must be a Minimum of 5.5 inches Long Catching of Egg Bearing Females is PROHIBITED.**  
**The CLOSED SEASON extends from APRIL 1– JULY 31.**  
**No Individual is Allowed to Harvest, Possess, Capture or Offer for Sale Any Fresh or Live lobster during the Closed Season.**  
**Trapping, without a proper permit, is PROHIBITED.**
  - **Conch – 6 Per Vessel. The taking of Conch without a Fully-Developed Lip is PROHIBITED.**
  - **Sharks – Landing, Possessing, Fishing For, Exporting, Importing or Offering for Sale any Shark, Shark Part or Shark Product is PROHIBITED.**  
**Any sharks caught while fishing recreationally shall be released uninjured.**

### Bahamas Fisheries Laws Strictly PROHIBIT:

- **The use of SCUBA gear in the capture of any marine resource.**
- **The use of bleach or other noxious or poisonous substances for fishing.**
  - **The use of Firearms or Explosives for Fishing.**
- **The use of any spear-fishing device other than Pole-Spears or Hawaiian Slings.**
  - **Spear-Fishing within the Following Areas:**  
**One Mile off the Coast of New Providence**  
**One Mile off the Coast of Grand Bahama**  
**200 Yards off the Coast of Bimini or any Other Family Island**
- **The use of Nets, other than Cast-Nets for catching Pilchards and Goggle Eyes.**
  - **The use of Traps, without a Specific Permit.**
    - **The Taking of Any Corals.**
  - **The Sale of Any Fisheries Resource without a Specific Permit.**
  - **The Capture or Molestation of Any Sea Turtle or Marine Mammal.**
  - **Returning to Port Without the Head & Tail of All Fish Intact.**

