



HOT SHEET – OCTOBER 2013

(Valid through October 31, 2013)

Issues covered in this posting:

[Commission Meeting](#), [Red Snapper](#), [Lionfish Summit](#), [License-Free Fishing](#), [Stone Crab](#), [Season Updates](#), [Events](#)

Issue: COMMISSION MEETING

Action: Marine Fisheries items discussed Sept. 5 in Pensacola

Information: Several Marine Fisheries Management items were discussed by the Commission Sept. 5 in Pensacola and several changes were made.

Changes include:

- 4 license-free fishing days will be added to the calendar
- The definition of snagging as it applies to **tarpon** will be enhanced and the use and possession of gear rigged with a weight attached to the bottom of the hook will be prohibited while fishing in Boca Grande Pass effective Nov. 1.
- The February-through-March recreational closed season for **several species of grouper** in **Gulf of Mexico state waters** will be eliminated.
- The Nov. 1 through March 31 recreational closed season for **vermillion snapper** in **Atlantic** state waters will be eliminated.
- A supplemental recreational **red snapper** season of Oct. 1-21 was set in **Gulf of Mexico state waters**.

The Commission also discussed clarifying blue runner regulations in state waters and extending those regulations into federal waters. This issue will be brought back before the Commission at the Nov. 20-21 meeting in Fort Lauderdale.

Links for more information:

[Commission News Releases](#) [MyFWC.com]

[Commission Agenda](#) [MyFWC.com]

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Issue: RED SNAPPER

→Gulf

Action: Recreational harvest reopens Oct. 1 in state and federal waters

Information: The recreational harvest of red snapper will reopen Oct. 1 in state and federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

- Closes Oct. 22 in state waters
- Closes Oct. 15 in federal waters
- For 2013 only
- 16 inches minimum size limit (not changing)
- 2 per harvester, per day bag limit (not changing)
- 0 daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew of for hire vessels

Anglers are required to use circle hooks and dehooking devices when fishing for any reef species in Gulf of Mexico state and federal waters, including red snapper. The requirement to use venting tools in federal waters was removed Sept. 3, 2013. The

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will consider removing the requirement to have and use venting tools in state waters of the Gulf at a future meeting.

Links for more information:

[Gulf Snapper](#) [MyFWC.com]

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Issue: LIONFISH SUMMIT

Action: FWC hosts Lionfish Summit Oct. 22-24 in Cocoa Beach

Information: The 2013 FWC Lionfish Summit is a unique opportunity for the research community, resource managers and the public to review ongoing research efforts, identify research gaps, review current management efforts, and identify alternative management and control strategies and challenges.

To register for this event, visit FWCLionfish.Eventbrite.com.

Links for more information:

[Lionfish Summit](http://Lionfish_Summit) [FWCLionfish.Eventbrite.com]

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Issue: LICENSE-FREE FISHING

Action: Oct. 12 is a saltwater license-free fishing day

Information: At the Sept. 5 Commission meeting, the FWC added four more license-free fishing days to the calendar.

On these days, residents and visitors can recreationally fish without being required to have the recreational fishing license that is required the rest of the year.

Additional 2013 license-free fishing days include:

- Saltwater
 - Oct. 12
 - Nov. 30
- Freshwater
 - Nov. 29
 - Dec. 28

All bag limits, seasons and size restrictions apply on these dates. For fishing tips, locations and rules, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing.

An annual license for residents can be purchased at 1-888-FISH-Florida or at License.MyFWC.com. All fishing license fees are used to support Florida fish and wildlife conservation and help attain additional funding for Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration projects.

Links for more information:

[License Information](#) [MyFWC.com]

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Issue: STONE CRAB

Action: Season opens Oct. 15

Information: The recreational and commercial stone crab season will open Oct. 15 in state and federal waters.

Recreational regulations include:

- Only the claws may be harvested
- Claws must be 2 ¾ inches to be harvested
- Bag limit: 1 gallon of claws per person, 2 gallons per vessel, whichever is less
- Harvest of claws from females with eggs is prohibited
- May 16: Season closes
- Cannot use any device that can puncture, crush or injure the crab body
- 5 trap maximum per person

Links for more information:

[Stone Crab Information](#) [MyFWC.com]

[Video: How to remove a stone crab claw](#) [YouTube.com]

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Issue: SEASON UPDATES

Action: Upcoming recreational season openings and closures for October-November

Information: The following species have upcoming season openings/closures:
(May not include all harvest openings/closures. View [regulations online at MyFWC.com](#) for more.)

Oct. 1 – Red Snapper (Gulf) opens

Oct. 15 – Stone Crab opens

Red Snapper (Gulf, federal) closes

Oct. 22 – Red Snapper (Gulf, state) closes

Links for more information:

[FWC Stone Crab](#) [MyFWC.com]

[FWC Gulf Snapper](#) [MyFWC.com]

[FWC Recreational Regulations](#) [MyFWC.com]

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OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2013 EVENTS

[Oct. 12: Saltwater License-Free Fishing Day](#)

[Oct. 12-13: Florida Sportsman Expo – West Palm Beach](#)

[Oct. 19: FWC Marine Quest – St. Petersburg](#)

[Oct. 22-24: FWC Lionfish Summit – Cocoa Beach](#)

[Nov. 9: Kids' Fishing Clinic – Steinhatchee](#)

[Nov. 15-17: Ladies, Let's Go Fishing! – Islamorada](#)

[Nov. 20-21: FWC Commission Meeting – Ft. Lauderdale](#)

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[Nov. 29: Freshwater License-Free Fishing Day](#)

[Nov. 30: Saltwater License-Free Fishing Day](#)

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