

## What To Know Before You Go . . .

**Spearfishing** is "the catching or taking of a fish through the instrumentality of a hand or mechanically propelled, single or multi-pronged spear or lance, barbed or barbless, operated by a person swimming at or below the surface of the water." *The use of powerheads, bangsticks, and rebreathers remains prohibited.*

**Possession of Spear Equipment:** Possession of spears and spearguns is prohibited in Everglades National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park and Florida State Parks.

**Coral:** Coral is protected from damage and from removal in State and Federal waters. Do NOT touch, hold on to, stand on, break or otherwise harm coral. It is a living fragile animal.



**Bag and Size Limits:** The federal bag limits cannot be combined with state bag limits. Remember to abide by regulations regarding size limits. Objects underwater appear one third larger. Check with agencies for current regulations: [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) or [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov).

**License Requirements:** Recreational harvesters are required to possess a valid Florida Saltwater Fishing License. Consult your license agent for purchasing and exemptions to licensing requirements or visit [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).



**Dive Flag:** All divers and snorkelers in the water are required to prominently display a divers-down flag. The minimum size for any divers-down flag displayed on a buoy or float towed by the diver is 12" by 12". The minimum size for a flag displayed from vessel or structure is 20" by 24". Any flag displayed from a vessel must be displayed from the highest point of the vessel or such other location which provides that the visibility of the divers-down flag is not obstructed in any direction.

**Note:** Boaters should stay at least 300 feet away from divers-down warning devices/flags. Divers should stay within 300 feet of a dive flag in open water.

*This is not an official publication of spearfishing rules and regulations.*

**For additional information such as fishing regulations including size and bag limits-**

[www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com)  
[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)  
[www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov)  
[floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov)  
[www.nps.gov/ever](http://www.nps.gov/ever)  
[www.nps.gov/drto](http://www.nps.gov/drto)

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Division of Law Enforcement 888-404-3922  
To report a violation DIAL on cell Phone \*FWC or #FWC  
FWC Dispatch (dial no. then 7) 305-470-6863  
Division of Marine Fisheries 850-487-0554

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council** 866-723-6210

**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council** 888-833-1844

**John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and  
Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park** 305-451-1202

**Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park and Lignumvitae  
Key Submerged Land Management Area** 305-664-2540

**Long Key State Park** 305-664-4815

**Curry Hammock State Park** 305-289-2690

**Bahia Honda State Park** 305-872-2353

**Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park** 305-292-6713

**Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks** 305-242-7700  
24-hour Dispatch 305-242-7740

**Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges** 305-872-2239

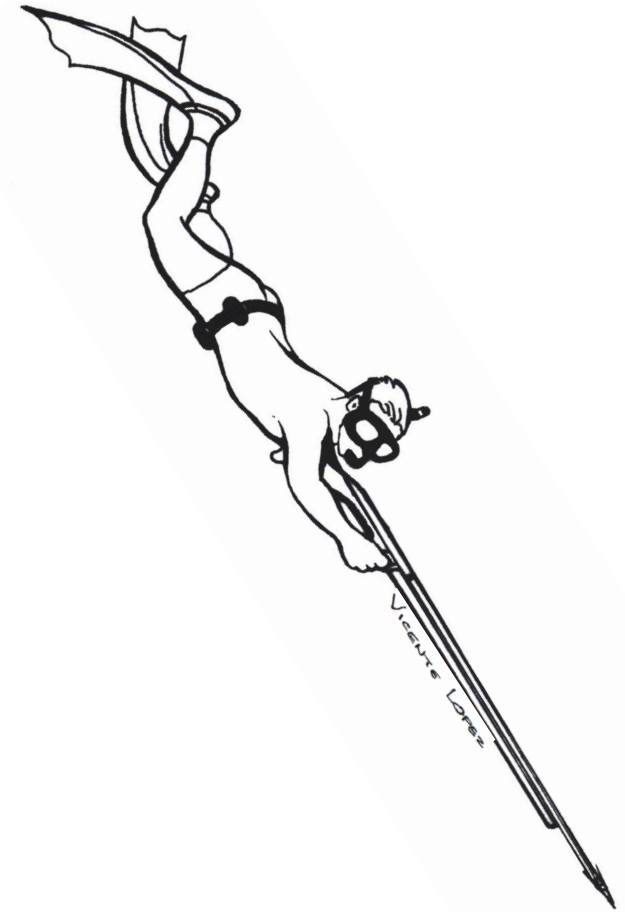
**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**  
Key Largo Office 305-852-7717  
Key West Office 305-809-4700

**Monroe County Sheriff's Office** 305-289-2430

**City of Marathon** 305-743-0033

**Monroe County** 305-289-2805

# Spearfishing Regulations for Monroe County, Florida including the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



## *Spearfishing is Prohibited in the Following Areas of Monroe County*

### State Waters from Long Key north to the Miami-Dade County line

**State Waters** are all salt waters surrounding the Florida Keys out to **three (3) nautical** miles from the nearest point of land including islands on the Atlantic side and out to **nine (9) nautical** miles from the nearest point of land including islands on the Gulf side.

**Note:** This restriction includes waters on the bayside (*north/northeast*) of Long Key and oceanside (*south/southeast*) of Long Key.

(NOAA nautical charts. <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/>).

### Everglades National Park (*Florida Bay*)

### Dry Tortugas National Park

#### State Parks

The following state parks are within State Waters in the Upper Keys - spearfishing is prohibited.

- Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park
- John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
- Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park
- Lignumvitae Key Submerged Land Management Area
- Long Key State Park

The following state parks boundaries extend out to 400 feet from the shoreline - spearfishing and the possession of spearfishing equipment is prohibited.

- Curry Hammock State Park
- Bahia Honda State Park
- Fort Zachary Taylor Historic Sate Park

#### Beaches, Piers, Bridges

Within 100 yards of a public swimming beach, any commercial or public fishing pier, or any part of a bridge from which public fishing is allowed.

#### Jetties

Within 100 feet of any part of a jetty that is above the surface of the sea - except for the last 500 yards of a jetty that extends more than 1,500 yards from the shoreline.

### Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

#### • Existing Management Areas (EMAs)

Possession of spearfishing equipment within these Existing Management Areas is prohibited except while transiting through without stopping.

- Key Largo EMA -adjacent to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and extends to the 300 foot depth
- Looe Key EMA - five-square-nautical mile area surrounding Looe Key reef

The following three types of sanctuary no-take zones are marked by 30" diameter round yellow buoys They are closed to all fishing.

#### • Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs)

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Carysfort Reef      | • Cheeca Rocks      |
| • Elbow               | • Alligator Reef    |
| • Key Largo Dry Rocks | • Coffins Patch     |
| • Grecian Rocks       | • Sombrero Key      |
| • French Reef         | • Looe Key          |
| • Molasses Reef       | • Newfound Harbor   |
| • Conch Reef          | • Eastern Dry Rocks |
| • Hen and Chickens    | • Rock Key          |
| • Davis Reef          | • Sand Key          |

#### • Special-Use Research Only Areas

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Conch Reef          | • Tennessee Reef |
| • Looe Key Patch Reef | • Eastern Sambo  |

#### • Ecological Reserves

- Western Sambo
- Tortugas North/South (not currently marked)

### **Manmade Canals in Unincorporated Monroe County/City of Marathon**

It is unlawful for any person to use, fire or discharge any speargun on or below the surface of the water in any man-made canal in unincorporated Monroe County and in the City of Marathon.

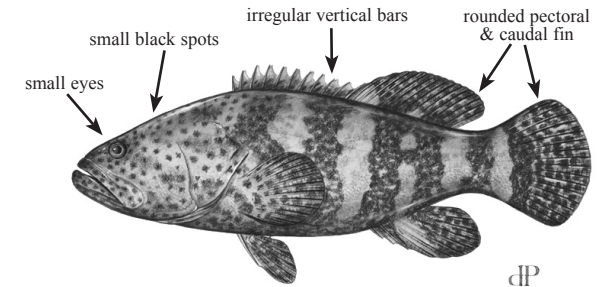
## *Species Prohibited for Harvest by Spearing*

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • African Pompano   | • Red Drum          |
| • Billfish (all species)  | • Sharks            |
| • Blue Crab   | • Snook             |
| • Bonefish  | • Spotted Eagle Ray |
| • Goliath Grouper (Jewfish)   | • Spotted Seatrout  |
| • Lobster   | • Stone Crab        |
| • Manta Ray   | • Sturgeon          |
| • Nassau Grouper  | • Tarpon            |
| • Permit  | • Tripletail        |
| • Pompano   | • Weakfish          |
| • Families of Ornamental Reef Fish<br>(Angelfish, Butterflyfish, Cornetfish, Damselfish, Parrotfish, Pipefish, Porcupinefish, Puffers, Seahorse, Squirrelfish, Surgeonfish, Triggerfish (except gray and ocean), Trumpetfish, Trunkfish,) |                     |

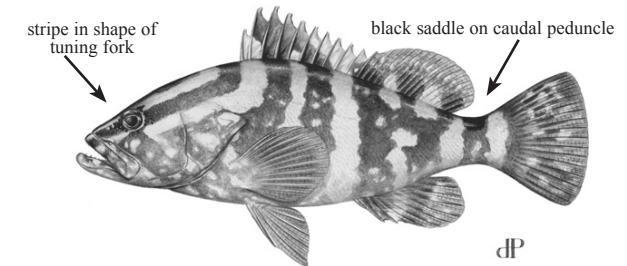
[MyFWC.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/spearing](http://MyFWC.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/spearing)

### *Know Your Fish Before You Go*

(These 2 fish are protected and often confused with similar looking species.)



**Goliath Grouper** - Head and fins covered with small black spots; irregular vertical bars present on the sides of body; pectoral and caudal fins rounded; eyes small.



**Nassau Grouper** - Color light background with brown or red-brown bars on sides; stripe in shape of tuning fork on forehead; black dots around the eyes; large black saddle on caudal peduncle.