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Bahamian fishing regulations

Permits are obtained from customs officers at ports of entry. Fishing gear is restricted to hooks and line and you may not fish with more than six rods at a time. Any fish on any vessel will be on board until its head and tail are intact. The limitations of the bag are as follows: lobster or crawfish: six tails per vessel at any time. The annual closed season is from April 1 to July 31. The minimum size limit is 3-3/8 inch carapace length or six inch tail length. Egg-containing female crawfish are preserved. Shellfish: Queen's shellfish (shellfish) are considered an endangered species across much of the wider Caribbean, including the Bahamas. In an effort to ensure the continued stability of local shellfish reserves, the harvesting of species by foreign boaters is prohibited. Wahu/Dolphin/Kingfish: Six fish per vessel, any combination. Vessel bag limit: 20 pounds scalfish, 10 shellfish and six crawfish per vessel can be exported from the islands of the Bahamas. Stone Crabs: The off season is June 1 to Oct. 15. The minimum croppable claw is four inches. The harvesting of women is prohibited. Tortoise: illegal to catch or is on board; However legal to eat in the islands of the Bahamas. Spearfishing: Air Sling is the only approved spearfishing device. The use of scuba gear or an air compressor is prohibited for harvesting fish, shellfish, crawfish and other marine animals. Spearfishing is not allowed within a mile off the coast of New Providence, within a mile from the south coast of Freeport, the Grand Bahamas, and within 200 yards of the coast of all-out islands. It is prohibited to carry or take marine animals in any way within national marine parks. The Department of Marine Resources would like to advise the general public that a number of amendments have been made in the regulations governing sports fishing and these changes have come into force on 1st January, 2007. The amendments to Regulation 48 of the Fisheries Regulations have the effect of cutting the amount of marine resources that can be legally harvested by foreign boaters visiting the Bahamas. The general public is informed that Regulation 48 now reads: 48. (1) The following rules apply to game fishing: a) a person will catch fish by the traditional method of angling along the hook or lure attached to the line placed in the hand or connected to the pole, rod or reel; b) a person, unless otherwise authorized by the respective permit, shall use a trap other than a spear, fish net, or landing net; c) each vessel shall not use more than six (6) rods or reels unless the operator is in possession of a permit authorizing the use of more rods or reels; d) any migratory fishery resources which will not be more than six (6) kingfishers, dolphins, tuna or vahu per vessel in total and no resource intended to be used will be unnecessarily injured but returned to the living sea; e) No vessel will have At any time board over twenty pounds of any shellfish, turtles or any demersal fishery resources (groupers, snappers, etc.) per vessel and excluding more than six crossfish per vessel. (2) (1) (d) and (e) the limits specified in the same shall apply to a Bahamian vessel engaged in fishing for purposes other than commercial by persons who are not Bahamian; (3) Subject to paragraph (1) No fish shall be placed on any vessel unless its head and tail are intact. The general public is advised that queen shellfish (shellfish) are considered an endangered species across much of its range within the wider Caribbean region, including the Bahamas. In an effort to ensure continued sustained stability of local shellfish reserves, decided to restrict the felling of species by foreign boaters when arriving by boat and clearing customs duties, the vessel will receive a cruising permit, including fishing permits for everyone listed on the clearance manifest. Keep your permit documents on the pot at all times. At Big Game Club, we take fishing rules seriously. We are committed to conservation and hope you, our guest, have as well. It is important to learn and respect the fishing rules of the Bahamas and Bimini. Sadly, for some anglers are defying the grip limits, the grip and shape-limits for shellfish are overlooked, lobster is considered irrelevant to 'off-season' and spearfishing restrictions are for others. These practices result in an unsustainable fishery. We therefore call on all our anglers to be good players and protectionists, and respect the regulations. As with fishing regulations back home, they often change, and rarely get less restrictive. Penalties can be extremely severe, so we encourage you to get acquainted with the current rules posted below. Current fishing rules for the Bahamas have been established by the Department of Marine Resources, the Ministry of Agricultural and Marine Resources and can be enforced by local authorities and penalties can be severe. Getting a big fix, or having your boat confiscated, will certainly ruin your day. Be a part of the solution, not the problem! Email whatever questions you need to do: fisheries@bahamas.gov.bs or contact the outfitter for clarification. We have summarized below the list of important bag limitations to get acquainted: no more than 10 tails at any time. The annual closed season is from April 1 to July 31. The minimum size limit is 3-3/8 inch carapace length or six inch tail length. Egg bearing female crawfish are preserved. No time limit is more than 6 per vessel. The harvesting and possession of shellfish without a well-formed lip is prohibited. Migratory species will not exceed 18 fish per vessel at any time. No more than 60 pounds or 20 scale fish. The minimum croppable claw is four inches. The harvesting of women is prohibited. Weather is From June 1 to Oct. 15. Either way to harvest is illegally or onboard at any time. In the Bahamas, you are not allowed to harvest fish, shellfish, crawfish or other marine animals using scuba gear or an air compressor. An air sling is the only approved spearfishing device in the Bahamas. Within a mile of the coast of New Providence, spefishing is not allowed within a mile of the south coast of Freeport, the Grand Bahamas, and within 200 yards of the coast of all out-islands, including Bimini. It is prohibited to carry or take marine animals in any way within national marine parks. On a final note: Many Lions across the Bahamas are hostingfish Derbies to help eliminate these aggressive predators. In addition to participating in government-sanctioned events where spearfishing regulations are relaxed for research purposes, spefish restrictions apply on the taking of shermachya. Let's respect all regulations. Remember, we call on our big-game players to be a part of the solution, not the problem. Thank you! Do you know the Bahamas fishing rules? The sections below outline the regulations. The full text of the law can be found on (Chapter 244-Section 19, Fisheries Resources: Jurisdiction and Conservation Regulations). Also the Mar 31, 2013 article contributed by friends of the environment, which you can read here, describes the rules in the context of the common man. Since previous regulations could be sure to check the Bahamas tourism page for any last minute fishing regulations updated. Note: As the rules change, checking the full text of the law through the link above is strongly advised. Bag boundaries. Fishing and Diving Regulations. Export of seafood Current fishing rules for the Bahamas are established by the Department of Marine Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources and are enforced by local authorities and penalties can be severe. Getting a big fix, or having your boat confiscated, will certainly ruin your day. Know the rules and follow them. Email whatever questions you need to do: fisheries@bahamas.gov.bs or contact the outfitter for clarification. The boat must have a sports permit aboard the fish from you (applies to non-Bahamians). Personal permits are not required. Permits are obtained from customs officers at ports of entry. Fishing gear is restricted to hooks and line and you may not fish with more than six rods at a time. The limitations of the bag are as follows: Wahu/Dolphin/Kingfisher/Tuna Migratory species such as Kingfisher, Dolphin, Tuna or Wahu shall not exceed 18 fishes at any time. (The previous limit was six (6). The season off Stone Crabs is June 1 to Oct. 15. The minimum croppable claw is 4. Felling of the female is prohibited. Illegal to import turtles. There will be no sea turtles on any vessel. Lobster or crawfish no more than 10 Anytime. The annual closed season is from April 1 to July 31. The minimum size limit is 3-3/8 inch carapace length or six inch tail length. Egg-bearing female crawfish are preserved. Cutting shellfish and possession of shellfish without a well-formed lip is prohibited. The limit of bags at any time does not exceed 6 per boat. Vessel bags range in excess of 60 pounds or 20 scale fish demersal species (groups, snappers, etc.). Spearfishing air sling is the only approved spearfishing device. You are not allowed to use scuba gear or an air compressor for crop fish, shellfish, crawfish or other marine animals. Spearfishing is not allowed within a mile of the coast of New Providence, within a mile of the south coast of Freeport, the Grand Bahamas, and within 200 yards of the coast of all out islands. It is prohibited to carry or take marine animals in any way within national marine parks. Source: Island of the Bahamas boating and fishing guide. Fisheries and Diving Regulations The Bahamas Department of Marine Resources announced a number of amendments to the Oct. 19, 2007 Fisheries Resources Regulations. These changes are intended to accommodate legitimate sportfishing events and tournaments, while still providing greater protection for the 700 important fish stocks within the island archipelago. Complete information on recreational fishing rules within the islands of the Bahamas is available in www.bahamas.com, but significant changes to the existing statute include those listed below. Any entity wishing to hold a sportfishing event or tournament must apply for a permit through the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources to approve the event. Permits and tournament decals will be issued for approved events and each participating vessel must be in possession of a valid permit with decal to enforce the following regulations. As of Oct. 19, 2007, migratory species like kingfish, dolphin, tuna or vahu will not exceed 18 fish per vessel at any time. The previous limit was six (6). No vessel will be onboard: sea turtle; More than six (6) shellfish; More than 10 crawfish; Demersal species (group, snapper, etc.) in more than 60 lbs or 20 fish. Approved sportfishing events or tournaments are the only circumstances under which billfish species such as marlin, sailfish or swordfish can be retained. Fishermen on independent vessels must return these fish to water without harm. For foreign vessels engaged in sportfishing, for which permits were issued, will be allowed to export fishery products aboard the vessel within the above catchlimits for non-commercial purposes. Fisheries inspectors have the right to board and inspect a vessel engaged in sportfishing to ensure compliance. The effect of previous amendments to fishing regulations continues to determine that: a person will fish by the traditional method of angling Hook or lure attached to the line placed in the hand or attached to the pole, rod or reel; a person, unless otherwise authorized by the relevant permit, will not use a trap other than a spear, fish net, or landing net; Each vessel will not use more than six (6) rods or reels unless the operator is in possession of a permit authorizing the use of more rods or reels. For more information on sportfishing, scheduled events or travel to the islands of the Bahamas, please visit www.bahamas.com. Source: Special requirements for Bahamas boating and fishing islands Special requirements for export of seafood from the Bahamas as a part of personal baggage Bahamas fisheries regulations allow passengers to export a limited amount of marine resources as part of their personal belongings. Listed below are the maximum allowable limits for all passengers travelling by air and sea. Six dolphins, done as part of seafood export range personal belongings Wahu or Kingfish Ten (10 lbs.) pounds of shellfish* or crawfish twenty (20 lbs.) foreign vessels with individuals allowing a game fishing are limited to the amount specified in the amount specified in sports fishing permits under the allowed sport fishing under the pounds of Demersal fish acceptable limit to a foreign vessel that had been fishing in the Bahamas under a sports fishing permit in the Bahamas. The Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), which is a party to the Bahamas, has listed the Queen Conch as an endangered species. Therefore, any shellfish exports from the Bahamas are required to issue CITES export permits. Individuals travelling with up to ten (10 lbs) pounds of shellfish can apply directly to the Permit section of the Department of Agriculture for CITES export permits. This section is located in the Levi Building on East Bay Street. Office hours are from 9:00 m to 5:00 pm.m. Monday to Friday. The fee for CITES export permits is ten (\$10.00) dollars. More information about marine resources can be obtained by email at the Export Limit Department of Marine Resources, Telephone Number (242) 393-1777, or (242) 393-1014, Fax Number (242) 393-0238 or fisheries@bahamas.gov.bs. Source: Island of the Bahamas boating and fishing guide guide