



Florida FWC enacted changes to the regulations on bag limits for snook, spotted seatrout and redfish along the coastal waters of southwest Florida. This is in response to the devastation done to fish populations during last year's red tide and bacterial algae outbreak. The purpose is to suspend harvesting of these species until their populations can recover.

The current daily bag limit is: "catch-and-release-only" for counties north of ours, but the ban in Collier County is only as far south as the Gordon River in Naples. This ban was recently extended to May of 2020.

This leaves Marco Island and the 10,000 Islands as the only inshore waters in Southwest Florida with harvestable fishing for these species.

For those of you still on the island this summer, you've surely noticed the influx of anglers from our north (some are guides) plying our local waters in search of "keeper" fish. The boat ramps on Marco and Goodland are now full daily, and we feel this puts a tremendous pressure on our local fishery.

The FWC commissioners hold regular meetings to update and address fishing regulations for Florida, and they accept public input and comments in their agenda. If you agree that ALL of Collier county should be included in the "catch-and-release-only" regulation, there are 3 easy options to make your voice heard:

1. Attend the FWC commissioners meeting July 17 & 18 in Stuart Florida. Click the following link for information and to register as a speaker- <https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commission-meetings/>

2. Complete the comment section in the following link-

<https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/rulemaking/saltwater-public-comments/>

Under "topic" (select a category) choose "other", then in the body of your comment reference the snook, redfish and spotted seatrout ban in Collier county. Then either express your support to include ALL of Collier County, or not (if that's your opinion).

3 Send a letter to the FWC's Senior Leadership Team:

Eric Sutton, Thomas Eason, Ph.D., Jennifer Fitzwater
David Rathke, and Charlotte Jerrett.

c/o Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

And to the Regional Director for the FWC South Region:

Dr. Thomas Reinert, Regional Director
8535 Northlake Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33412

We hope you will help support this effort to preserve what we have left of the local redfish and spotted trout. The 2020 tourist season will be devastating if this regulation remains unchanged.

MSC Board of Directors