

Current Recreational Spotted Seatrout Regulations

Spotted Seatrout must be a minimum of 15 inches total length (TL) to harvest, with a daily bag limit of 15 fish per person.

Current Commercial Spotted Seatrout Regulations

Spotted Seatrout must be a minimum length of 14 inches TL to harvest

- Annual Quota: 50,000 pounds
- Commercial fishermen have a 50,000-pound quota, and their Spotted Seatrout season closes once this is reached.
- The commercial fishery is open from January 1st – December 31st of each year until the quota is met.
- Commercial fishermen are not allowed to fish north of the CSX railroad.
- Additionally, commercial fishermen are not allowed to fish within one mile of Ship, Horn, or Petit Bois Islands.
- In addition to having a commercial license, individuals harvesting Spotted Seatrout for sale must possess a Spotted Seatrout Endorsement.
- To qualify for this endorsement an application must be completed and submitted to the Finfish Bureau Trip Ticket Program officer. You can find the application by clicking on the link below:
<https://dmr.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-Spotted-Seatrout-Endorsement-Requirements.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions About Spotted Seatrout

1. When did the Spotted Seatrout minimum total length change to 15 inches?
 - The implementation date for the current regulation was January 16, 2017
2. What have we seen with Spotted Seatrout fishery since the regulation change?
 - Stock assessments have shown increases in the resiliency of the stock and total biomass.
 - Despite the yearly increase in recreational fishing effort in the Spotted Seatrout fishery, recent stock assessments have shown positive trends in biomass.
3. Can you transport and land Spotted Seatrout that meet the minimum size and creel limits of an adjacent states' waters?
 - Yes, but the fishermen must possess a valid saltwater fishing license of the state where the fish were caught and cannot stop in Mississippi territorial waters to fish prior to landing.
4. Where to catch Spotted Seatrout?
 - Fish around sea grass beds, dock pilings, bridge pilings, oyster beds, and sand bars in coastal waters, bays, bayous, and estuaries

5. How old is a 15-inch Spotted Seatrout?
 - It depends on the sex and productivity level of the region, but the majority of the Spotted Seatrout are between 1.5 year and 2.5 years old when 15 inches long.
6. When do Spotted Seatrout reach sexual maturity?
 - Female Spotted Seatrout reach 50% sexual maturity around 10.5 inches. Male Spotted Seatrout are 100% mature at 9 inches.