

Terms of fishing licenses and basic provisions of legislation for recreational fishing

This document provides the current Fishing Terms (FT) for recreational fishing licenses and some basic provisions of legislation related to recreational fishing. The holder of a fishing license must be aware of the applicable legislation, and in case of any discrepancy between the provisions listed and the current legislation, the provisions of the legislation apply. In addition, in case of any discrepancy between the present English translation of the provisions and the original provisions in Greek, the Greek version applies. This document is posted on the DFMR website, where it is promptly updated in case of any modifications to fishing terms or provisions of legislation. A summary of the changes from previous editions of these terms is provided in the Appendix. It is noted that the Director may, at his discretion and depending on the circumstances, modify, suspend, or cancel fishing licenses. For any clarification regarding this document, please contact the local DFMR district units.

General Terms/Provisions

1. The license is personal, and the licensee must carry it with him/her and present it along with his/her ID card when requested by an authorized person (FT).
2. Any fishing method or fishing gear not described in the provisions of the Fisheries Law and Regulations, as well as in the terms of the recreational fishing license, is prohibited, except for recreational fishing with hook and line from shore (Reg. 17A).
3. Recreational fishing using a boat that has not been declared by its owner or a person authorized by him/her during the issuance of a recreational fishing license for the reported year, is prohibited. The licensee is entitled to engage in recreational fishing from any boat declared during the reported year (FT).
4. Conducting a recreational fishing competition requires written permission by the Director (Reg.17B).
5. Special restrictions apply to fishing or/and passing or/and anchoring within 100 meters of fish farming installations operating in maritime areas (Reg. 14), within 100 meters of the entrance of fishing shelters (RAA 83/94), within 500 meters of Zenobia wreck (RAA 379/2021), in the marine area around the desalination unit pipeline in Larnaca (RAA 379/2021), in the marine area of Lara, from the location 'Aspros' to 'Argaki tou Giousoufi' up to a depth of 20 meters (Reg. 14, RAA 234/2018), and in the marine protected areas of Paralimni (RAA 404/2017), Cape Greco (RAA 115/2018), 'Thalassines Spilies' of Ayia Napa (RAA 46/2023), Ayia Napa (RAA 322/2021), Larnaca (RAA 124/2020), Agios Georgios Alamanos (RAA 47/2023), Amathounta (RAA 445/2017), 'Dasoudi' of Limassol (RAA 29/2021), Yeroskipou (RAA 489/2014), 'Bania' of Paphos (RAA 66/2017), 'Thalassines Spilies' of Peyia (RAA 28/2019), 'Kakoskali' (RAA 258/2019), and 'Chalavro' (RAA 91/2023). A map with the above areas and the restrictions that apply to each one, as well as a reference to the relevant legislation, is available on the DFMR website in Google Earth KMZ format. The map may not be exhaustive, and in case of a discrepancy between the map and the current legislation, the provisions of the legislation apply (FT).
6. Fishing is prohibited throughout the day in areas designated as bathing areas for the current year (FT).
7. The following are prohibited, (i) any form of fishing or collection of marine organisms in combination with underwater diving using auxiliary devices, (ii) simultaneous possession and/or transport of any form of underwater diving equipment and spearfishing gun or its component or any form of harpoon or catch with any boat, and (iii) simultaneous possession and/or transport of any form of spearfishing gun or its component or any form of harpoon and catch with any boat from sunset to sunrise (Reg. 17).
8. The pursuit, capture, killing, possession onboard, transfer, unloading, purchase, or sale of marine mammals, turtles, or birds is prohibited. As an exception, the possession onboard and unloading of injured or comatose turtles is allowed for rescue purposes, provided that relevant information has already been provided to DFMR officials. Vessels using bottom-set gear must carry the equipment needed to release turtles with the least possible harm and in a way that maximizes their chances of survival, according to the best practices guide for managing accidental captures of marine turtles (fao.org/documents/card/en/c/i8951e1). In the case of dead marine mammals, they must be recovered from the sea and transported to the nearest landing port for pickup by DFMR officials, who have also been informed accordingly (FT).
9. Fishing or possession of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), or any species of shark or ray (elasmobranchs) is prohibited. In the case of accidental capture of any of these species, they must be immediately released with the minimum possible harm and in a manner that maximizes the likelihood of their survival, in the case of elasmobranchs according to the best practice guide for the management of accidental catches of sharks and rays (fao.org/publications/card/fr/c/l9152e1) (FT).
10. Fishing and possession of albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) are prohibited onboard vessels for which the issuance of the fishing license and the declaration of vessel information by the owner or authorized person (see paragraph 3) have been made after April 30 of the reference year (FT).

11. Fishing and possession of more than one individual per fisher or per vessel (where a vessel is used), per fishing trip, and per twenty-four hours of the species dusky grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*) and common dentex (*Dentex dentex*) are prohibited (FT).

12. The possession of fish from recreational fishing without the upper lobe of the tail fin removed is prohibited, while any other form of processing of recreational fishing catches onboard (except evisceration and scaling), as well as their commercial exploitation and possession in any commercial transaction venue for fishery products are also prohibited (Reg.17B).

13. The capture and possession of specimens smaller than the following minimum sizes are prohibited: white seabream (*Diplodus sargus*) 23 cm, sharpsnout seabream (*Diplodus puntazzo*) 18 cm, common two-banded seabream (*Diplodus vulgaris*) 18 cm, annular seabream (*Diplodus annularis*) 12 cm, gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*) 20 cm, common pandora (*Pagellus erythrinus*) 15 cm, red porgy (*Pagrus pagrus*) 18 cm, axillary seabream (*Pagellus acarne*) 17 cm, blackbelly rosefish (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) 33 cm, European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) 25 cm, groupers (*Epinephelus* spp.) 45 cm, wreckfish (*Polyprion americanus*) 45 cm, European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) 20 cm, anglerfish (*Lophius* spp.) 30 cm, striped red mullet (*Mullus* spp.) 11 cm, grey mullets (*Mugil* spp.) 16 cm, common sole (*Solea vulgaris*) 20 cm, sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) 11 cm, European anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) 9 cm, mackerel (*Scomber* spp.) 18 cm, horse mackerels (*Trachurus* spp.) 15 cm, European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) 30 cm / 10.5 cm CL, Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) 7 cm / 2 cm CL, spiny lobsters (Palinuridae) 24 cm / 9 cm CL, red shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) 2 cm CL, Venus clams (*Venus* spp. / *Venerupis* spp.) 2.5 cm, scallops (*Pecten* spp.) 10 cm (Reg. 11, FT).

14. For the purpose of recording recreational fishing activities and catches, all fishing trips must be reported to DFMR through the Cy-FIS application for Android devices (Google Play) and iOS (App Store). The use of the application is mandatory for all licensed recreational fishers and for all trips, while it is voluntary for shore fishing. In the application it is mandatory to report the fisher's details, the start and end of the fishing trip in real-time (immediately before the start and immediately after the end), the total catch (kg) per species, and length data for some species as needed (a relevant notification will be provided). In the case of two or more licensed fishers fishing from the same vessel, the declaration of the trip is made only by one (preferably the owner of the vessel), mentioning, in addition to the above, the total number of licensed fishers on the vessel. It is emphasized that the initial user registration in the system can only be done through the application on a mobile device. More details regarding the installation, registration, and use of the application have been posted on the DFMR website (FT).

Recreational fishing with a boat

15. The use or presence of any of the following onboard are prohibited, (i) any nets or surface longlines, (ii) more than two bottom longlines with more than two hundred (200) hooks each, (iii) more than four fish traps, and (iv) electric fishing reels with a power exceeding 800 W (Reg. EC 1967/2006, Reg. 19A, GFCM/45/2022/12).

16. Longlines and fish traps transported onboard or used for fishing purposes must bear clear markings and identification details (registration number of the boat to which they belong) (Reg. EC 1224/2009, 404/2011).

17. The transport onboard or use of bottom longlines is allowed from noon (12:00) on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, as well as on days preceding public holidays (New Year, Epiphany, Clean Monday, March 25th, April 1st, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May 1st, Pentecost, August 15th, October 1st, October 28th, Christmas Eve, Christmas, December 26th) until noon (12:00) of the following day, while there are no time restrictions during July and August (FT).

18. The use of octopus jigs and the possession of octopus onboard is allowed only during the day, and only on Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays, while there are no time restrictions during July and August (FT).

19. Fishing using bright light sources is prohibited (Reg. 18).

20. It is prohibited to catch per boat, per fishing trip, and per day (24 hours), more than (i) 10 kg in total, or (ii) 5 kg and one individual regardless of weight, or (iii) three individuals of albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) and 5 kg of other species, regardless of the total number of licensed fishers onboard (Reg. 17B, FT).

Recreational fishing with a speargun

21. The use of a speargun is prohibited (i) from sunset to sunrise, (ii) while scuba diving, (iii) in combination with bright light sources, (iv) in swimming areas (Reg. 17).

22. Fishing with a speargun near fishing gear is prohibited (FT).

23. Underwater fishers are required to carry a floating marker (buoy) per group, plastic, of yellow, orange, or red color, which must have a mast with a red flag with a white diagonal line, visible under normal conditions from a distance of at least three hundred (300) meters. If the licensed underwater fisher is accompanied by a vessel, this flag must be attached to a visible point on that vessel. Group members must move within a radius of fifty (50) meters from the marker or the vessel (FT).

24. It is prohibited to catch per fisher, per fishing trip, and per day (24 hours), more than 5 kg in total and one individual regardless of weight (Reg. 17B). In the case of using a boat for spearfishing, instead of the individual limit, the limit per boat described in paragraph 20 applies (Reg. 17B).

Recreational fishing with fish traps without using a boat

25. Fish traps used for fishing purposes must bear clear markings and identification details (fishing license number) (FT).

26. The placement of up to four fish traps on the seabed, outside swimming areas, is allowed (Reg. 19A).

27. Fishers are required to carry a floating marker (buoy) per group, plastic, of yellow, orange, or red color, which must have a mast with a red flag with a white diagonal line, visible under normal conditions from a distance of at least three hundred (300) meters. Group members must move within a radius of fifty (50) meters from the marker (FT).

28. It is prohibited to catch per fisher, per fishing trip, and per day (24 hours), more than 5 kg in total and one individual regardless of weight (FT).

Recreational fishing during professional tourist activity

29. The use or presence onboard of nets, surface longlines, fish traps, and/or spearguns are prohibited. Fishing is only allowed with a vertical or trolling line, using a fishing rod or by hand. In the case of using an electric fishing reel, its power must not exceed 800 W. If the license allows, bottom longline fishing is permitted with a maximum of 100 hooks per trip, which have a maximum length of 35 mm (longline size 10), and a maximum thickness of the snood of 0.70 mm, while only the use of nylon monofilament is allowed (FT, GFCM/45/2022/12).

30. Longlines present onboard or used for fishing must have clear markings and identification details (boat registration number to which they belong) (Regulation EC 1224/2009, 404/2011).

31. Fishing using bright light sources is prohibited (Regulation 18).

32. It is prohibited to catch per boat, per fishing trip, and per day (24 hours), more than (i) 10 kg in total, or (ii) 5 kg and one individual regardless of weight, or (iii) three individuals of albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) and 5 kg of other species, regardless of the total number of licensed fishers onboard (Reg. 17B, FT).

33. The licensee is obliged to complete a ship's logbook where all catches are recorded, including species released according to Regulations EC 1224/2009 and EC 404/2011 (FT).

34. Advertising of fishing activities for elasmobranchs and other protected species is prohibited, and the licensee is required to place a sign issued by the DFMR in a prominent position on the boat indicating the prohibition of elasmobranch fishing (FT).

APPENDIX

Release history of recreational fishing terms since 2020

Version	Release date	Changes from the previous version
v1.0	1/1/2020	- Removal of May ban for spearfishing permit.
v1.1	28/5/2020	- Addition of a 24 hour fishing ban in swimming areas for all permits (§6).
v1.2	14/12/2020	- Addition of the obligation to carry a buoy for the fish traps permit (§27).
v1.3	26/1/2021	- Change of the decree for the marine protected area in Dasoudi from RAA 403/2017 to RAA 29/2021 (§5).
v2.0	23/12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addition of the "Chalavro" marine protected area (RAA 414/2021) (§5). - Addition of a reference to the KMZ file with protected areas on DFMR website (§5). - Addition of references to good practice guides for turtles and elasmobranchs (§8, §9). - Addition of the catch limit for one dusky grouper and one common dentex for all permits (§11). - Correction of minimum sizes based on Regulations 11 and (EU) 1241/2019 (§13). - Addition of the obligation to register and use the Cy-FIS application (§14). - Change in the allowed limit for the albacore tuna from 9 to 3 individuals for the boat permit (§20). - Change in the weight limits of the spearfishing permit in case of boat use (§24).
v2.1	18/7/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addition of weight limits for the fish trap permit (§28). - Addition of a ban on fishing with bright light sources for the fishing permit during professional tourist activity (§31). - Addition of catch limits for the fishing permit during professional tourist activities (§32).
v2.2	20/12/2022	- Addition of the obligation to declare the details of the vessel by the owner in general (§3) and before May 1 specifically for albacore tuna fishing (§10).
v2.3	30/12/2022	- Addition of the possibility of vessel declaration by an owner-authorized permit applicant (§3, §10).
v2.4	20/2/2023	- Addition of the "Thalassines Spilies" (RAA 46/2023) and Agios Georgios Alamanos (RAA 47/2023) marine protected areas (§5).
v2.5	19/7/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change of the decree for the "Chalavro" marine protected area from RAA 414/2021 to RAA 91/2023 (§5). - Addition of the power limit for electric fishing reels (§15, §29).
v2.6	20/9/2023	- Abolition of the data entry process for fishing via paper form and website (§14).