

Lower Laguna Madre



The new regulation applies to the entire lower Laguna Madre south of the Intracoastal Water Way marker 21 in the Land Cut and out to the base of the jetties. This includes all waters eastward of the saltwater boundary. Any anglers fishing in Gulf waters, the beaches, or from the jetties and landing their catches within the lower Laguna Madre boundaries are subject to the lower bag and possession limits.

For More Information

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Brownsville, TX (956) 546-1952

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NEW REGULATIONS FOR

Spotted Seatrout

in the
LOWER LAGUNA MADRE

**EFFECTIVE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2007**

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The bag and possession limit
for spotted seatrout in the
lower Laguna Madre south
of ICWW marker 21 is **FIVE.**

2007–2008 Spotted Seatrout Regulations



Cynoscion nebulosus

New Regulations

The world-famous spotted seatrout fishery in the lower Laguna Madre will receive an extra measure of protection beginning September 1, 2007. In Texas' first-ever regional approach to managing a saltwater fishery, the bag and possession limits for spotted seatrout in the lower Laguna Madre have been lowered to **five (5) fish per person per day**.

The reduction in the daily bag limit addresses a downward trend in the population of mature female spotted seatrout in the lower Laguna Madre—a trend that runs counter to steadily increasing populations elsewhere on the coast.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question

Answer

Do the new spotted seatrout regulations include waters outside of the lower Laguna Madre?

No, the new spotted seatrout bag and possession limits apply only to the waters of the lower Laguna Madre south of ICWW marker 21.

If I catch a limit of 10 spotted seatrout in the Land Cut, upper Laguna Madre, or in the Gulf of Mexico, can I legally transport and offload my fish at a boat ramp in the lower Laguna Madre?

No, you may not be in possession of more than five spotted seatrout in any of the waters of the lower Laguna Madre.

If I fish overnight in the lower Laguna Madre, can I keep two limits of spotted seatrout?

No, you may not be in possession of more than five spotted seatrout at any time in the waters of the lower Laguna Madre.

Are there any changes to the size limits for spotted seatrout?

No, the slot limit for spotted seatrout remains 15–25" with one fish over 25" per person per day, which counts as part of the daily bag limit.

If I am fishing from the jetties, do the new bag and possession limits for spotted seatrout apply to me?

No, if you are fishing from either the Port Mansfield (East Cut) or Brazos Santiago jetties, the lower Laguna Madre bag and possession limits do not apply.

What other measures is TPWD taking to help correct the downward trends in spotted seatrout populations in the lower Laguna Madre?

TPWD is expanding the stocking program for spotted seatrout, and the lower Laguna Madre will be receiving a larger proportion of the hatchery program's production each year. The department will also continue its long-term monitoring programs to assess the effectiveness of the new regulation.