

U.S./Bahamas

Recreational Fishing Information Links

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- [NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement](#)
- [United States Coast Guard](#)
- [South Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#)
- U.S Customs and Border Protection
 - [Pleasure Boats - Procedures for entering the U.S.](#)
 - [CBP Reporting Offsite Arrival – Mobile \(ROAM\)](#)
- [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#)
- [Lacey Act](#) - Title 16, United States Code, Section 3372(a)(2) Prohibited Acts
- [Exclusive Economic Zone and Maritime Boundaries](#)
- [The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation](#)
- [The Bahamas Customs & Excise Department](#)
- [NOAA Fisheries Press Release](#)

U.S./Bahamas

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Here are some simple steps to lawfully fish in Bahamian waters. Refer to the above links for all requirements :

- Private vessel owners must visit Bahamian Customs and Immigration and have a stamped passport and valid Bahamian cruising and sportfishing permits.
- If you use the new [Click2Clear online system](#), you may electronically declare entry at a Bahamian port-of-entry and pay for your cruising permit. You must still physically arrive at that port to obtain authenticated documents from Bahamian Customs. Filing and paying for the permit in advance does not authorize formal entry into or fishing in The Bahamas.
- You can obtain your authenticated fishing permit at your port of entry.
- Once you have an authenticated fishing permit, you must operate within the prescribed Bahamian fisheries regulations. Note that your authenticated documents must be available for inspection.
- When leaving The Bahamas, you must declare exit at a port of entry. Bahamian Customs will provide an authenticated certificate of departure.
- U.S. vessels may not fish in Bahamian waters after obtaining exit clearance from Bahamian Customs (i.e., on the way home).

U.S./Bahamas

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- Operators of small pleasure vessels, arriving in the United States from a foreign port or place to include any vessel which has visited a hovering vessel or received merchandise outside the territorial sea, are required to report their arrival to CBP immediately.
- It is important for U.S. fishermen to be aware of the overlapping jurisdictions involved when bringing back fish from The Bahamas. First, fishermen are subject to Bahamian Customs and Fisheries law. If out of compliance, they could face possible Lacey Act violations. Second, they are subject to possession limit laws in the U.S. portion of the EEZ. Lastly, fishermen are subject to state possession laws in Florida waters (0-3 nautical miles in the Atlantic, 0-9 nautical miles in the Gulf).