



Freshwater State Record Fish Application
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DIVISION OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
620 SOUTH MERIDIAN STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399

How To Certify a State Record Freshwater Fish

The angler must have a valid Florida freshwater fishing license or be exempt pursuant to s. 379.353, F.S.

The fish must be caught legally using an active hook-and-line method (bush hooks, snatch hooks, set lines, trotlines, etc. are excluded) in fresh waters of Florida.

If possible, keep the fish alive. If it is not possible to keep the fish alive, place it in ice water. Avoid freezing the fish because it will dehydrate causing it to lose weight. More information on how to handle and care for fish can be found at: <https://www.trophycatchflorida.com/trophycare.aspx>

Before contacting the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), weigh the fish to determine if a possible state record exists and if possible, take a photograph of the fish on a scale with the weight clearly visible. Make arrangements with the FWC to have the fish species certified by an FWC fisheries biologist, and to have an FWC employee witness the official weighing, on a certified scale and take measurements. When certifying the fish species as a largemouth bass, an FWC fisheries biologist does not have to be physically present, and the species can be certified by photograph or video, so long as an FWC employee witnesses official weighing and documentation.

FWC Regional Offices:

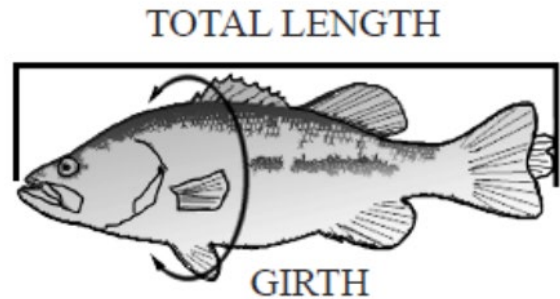
Northwest Region	(850) 265-3676
Northeast Region	(352) 732-1225
North Central Region	(386) 758-0525
Southwest Region	(863) 648-3200
South Region	(561) 625-5122

Fill out a State Record Fish application and have the application signed by an FWC fisheries biologist. Applications can be obtained from local FWC offices or on the internet at www.MyFWC.com/fishing.

Mail the completed application to: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Record Fish Program, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Measurement Standards

- A) Measure the fish's total length and girth to the nearest one-quarter inch. Total length is measured with the mouth closed and tail fin pinched together. Girth is the measurement around the widest part of the fish (see illustration).



- B) Weight shall be determined on a scale certified by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. A certified scale must meet the requirements of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and is approved by the National Type Evaluation Program. Weighing shall be done by an FWC employee and recorded to two decimal places.
- C) To replace an existing record, versus tying one, the weight difference must exceed the following: (i) nearest one-quarter ounce (0.02 pounds) for fish up to five pounds, (ii) to the nearest one-half ounce (0.03 pounds) for fish more than five pounds and up to 10 pounds, and (iii) to the nearest one ounce (0.06 pounds) for fish more than 10 pounds.

If your fish does not qualify as a state record, the Big Catch Angler Recognition Program rewards anglers who catch a memorable-sized fish. Qualifying anglers receive a colorful citation showing the type of fish caught and a window sticker to proudly display their prowess. To qualify, the fish must be legally caught and exceed the specified minimum length or weight. The catch must be witnessed, and a Big Catch form completed. Details can be found on applications available at many tackle stores, FWC offices, in the Freshwater Regulations Summary, or on the internet at <http://bigcatchflorida.com>



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Name: _____ Date Fish Was Caught: _____
Address: _____ Time Of Catch: _____ AM PM
City, State, and Zip: _____ County Where Caught: _____
SSN: _____ Name Of Waterbody Caught From: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Telephone: _____
Fishing License Number: _____

If Exempt, Check One: Used Cane Pole In County Of Residence, Older Than 65,
 Younger Than 16, Permanently Disabled, Military Home On Leave,
 Other: _____

Fishing Method Used To Catch Fish (Check one and complete blanks)

Rod and Reel With Artificial Lure Lure Used: _____
 Rod and Reel With Natural Bait Natural Bait Used: _____
 Cane Pole With Natural Bait Natural Bait Used: _____
 Fly Rod and Reel With Artificial Fly Fly Used: _____
 Other Fishing Method Describe: _____

Identification And Weight/Length Of Fish

Species: _____ Length: _____ Girth: _____
Was Fish Released? Yes, No Weight: _____ Pounds _____ Ounces
Owner of Certified Scale Used: _____ Phone: _____
Date Of Last Inspection: _____ Inspection Number: _____

I, _____, state that the fish described in this application was legally caught in the State of Florida, by myself, and the above information is true and correct. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may use this information and any attached photos or video for research, informational, and/or other public purposes.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness' Signature: _____ Date: _____

Biologist's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notice: The FWC reserves the right to cancel this application and any official recognition resulting from it, if at any time the application is shown to contain false statements. Recognition is not official until approved by the FWC and a Record Fish Certificate is issued.