



**ISRAEL NATURE
AND PARKS
AUTHORITY**

INFORMATION GUIDE FOR FISHING IN ISRAEL



**Ministry of
Agriculture and
Food Security**





Introduction

This booklet assembles and details the main restrictions on fishing and the relevant laws for the convenience of the fishing community in Israel.

Protecting the Sea – Together

The Israel Ministry of Agriculture and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority sees you, the members of the fishing community, as our natural partners in protecting and maintaining the marine habitat. Together we can ensure a healthy sea and a thriving fish population – for ourselves and for future generations.

Laws and Enforcement

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority is the official entity that supervises fishing in Israel.

Its powers of enforcement derive from:

- The latest update of the law “[Fishing Laws and Regulations – 1937](#)” and the document entitled “[Fishing Licenses – Procedures](#).” These regulations have been updated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and have been approved by the Knesset Economics Committee. The fishing regulations were established with the goal of improving fishing conditions in Israel through sustainable stewardship of this resource. Research, management, supervision and enforcement are all be part of this process.
- [Israel Nature and Parks Authority, National Sites and Commemoration Sites Law – 1998](#), and the regulations and declarations deriving from it.
- Please note! The content of this booklet does not under any circumstances supersede the text in the abovementioned documents and laws. The full documents, including regulations and updated files can be found on the following websites: [Ministry of Agriculture](#); [Israel Nature and Parks Authority](#).



Photo: Guy Levian

Important Information for the Fishing Community

- The regulations are determined by the Israel Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Israel Nature and Parks Authority is authorized to enforce them.
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority aims to enforce the law with sensitivity, but with determination with regard to all fishing methods, all population groups and all fishermen.
- When you encounter an Israel Nature and Parks Authority ranger at sea, on the beach or at an anchorage, you are required by law to identify yourself, present your licenses and obey their instructions.
- Fishing in marine nature reserves is prohibited by law.
- Rod fishing from the shoreline in marine nature reserves is prohibited except at designated sites and using methods that are permitted legally and according to the reserve's regulations.
- Fishing, possession or trafficking of protected species is also prohibited outside the reserve.
- The full list of protected species can be found on the Israel Nature and Parks Authority website: www.parks.org.il.

Please follow the regulations and protect marine life – avoid needless fines and penalties.

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Fishing Licenses

Dear fisherman,

All fishing methods require an individual license except for rod fishing from the shoreline, without no auxiliary equipment to enhance your efforts and extend the reach of the hook from the shore into the sea, for example a drone, kite, balloon, battery or electric motor. It is your responsibility to hold a valid license suitable for the fishing method you are using.

You may request a fishing license or a renewal of fishing licenses on the Ministry of Agriculture, [Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture website](#).

You may also send an email request to: daig@moag.gov.il

Phone number for inquiries: *6016

Professional (Commercial) Fishing Licenses

A professional (commercial) fisherman fishes for a living.

Given that you fish for a living, it is important for you to know the requirements of the law, so we can work together in full cooperation.

- To engage in commercial fishing, you must have an individual commercial fishing license for the fishing boat, according to the Fishing Ordinance and in keeping with the requirements of the [fishing license procedure](#).
- Commercial fishing from a motorized vessel requires a commercial fishing license for the vessel. Commercial fishing from a non-motorized watercraft that does not require a commercial license for the craft (such as a rowboat, inner tube or surfboard) is permitted in the Mediterranean Sea only, for fishing with cast nets and gillnets up to 300 m long.
- **Please note!** A gillnet up to 2,000 m in length is permitted from a motorized vessel that requires a license.

In any case, commercial fishing methods must conform to the methods outlined in the license.

Examples of commercial fishing licenses – individual and vessel

מדינת ישראל
 משרד החקלאות ופיתוח הכפר
 אגף הדיג וחקלאות מים




רישיון דיג אישי מקצועי
 (לפי פקודת הדיג, 1937)

אגף הדיג של מדינת ישראל


מוקד טלפוני: *6016
www.moag.gov.il
daig@moag.gov.il

תנאים כלליים:

- הרישיון הינו בר תקיף כשהוא נושא חותמת בנק או אישור תשלום מקוון.
- בעל הרישיון חייב לשאת רישיון דיג זה במהלך כל פעילות דיג.
- בעל הרישיון חייב להציג את הרישיון לפי דרישת פקיד דיג או שוטר.
- על בעל הרישיון להקפיד על שמירת חוקי הדיג וההגבלות המתפרסמות כדן.
- הדיג מותר רק מסירה עם רישיון דיג מקצועי, למעט דיג בחופי הים התיכון עם רשתות זוריקה ורשתות עמידה באורך שאינם עולה על 300 מטר.
- הרישיון מאפשר לבעליו ללדוג גם בשיטות דיג ספורטיביות (חכה בודדת ורובה תת-ימי ללא מתקני איר), בהתאם לתנאים הקבועים בנהל הרישיונות לדיג ספורטיבי.



רישיון דיג אישי מקצועי



קבלה מס': _____ הרישיון בתוקף עד: _____
 מספר רישיון: _____

שם: _____ מספר זהות: _____

כתובת: _____ מיקוד: _____

שולם לזכות חשבון: _____
 0-07611-6 בנק הדואר

אג': _____ מס': _____

הסכום לתשלום

בעל הרישיון רשאי ללדוג ממצויין להלן

יש	ים כנרת	הירדן	מפרץ אילת	אחר	דיג	רשת	רשת	מערך	מערך	רשת	רשת
תיכון		ויובליו			מכורות	הקפדה	מכורות	קרקע	קרקע	עמידה	מלכודת

מגבלות:

Example of an individual commercial license

מדינת ישראל
 משרד החקלאות ופיתוח הכפר
 אגף הדיג וחקלאות מים




רישיון דיג מקצועי לספינה
 (לפי פקודת הדיג, 1937)

אגף הדיג של מדינת ישראל


מוקד טלפוני: *6016
www.moag.gov.il
daig@moag.gov.il

תנאים כלליים:

- הרישיון הינו בר תקיף כשהוא נושא חותמת בנק או אישור תשלום מקוון.
- בעל הרישיון חייב לשאת רישיון זה בצמוד לרישיון שיש תקף מאת רשות הספנות והנמלים, בכל עת שהספינה נמצאת בים.
- בעל הרישיון חייב להציג את הרישיון לפי דרישת פקיד דיג או שוטר.
- על בעל הרישיון להקפיד על שמירת חוקי הדיג וההגבלות המתפרסמות כדן.
- ניתן לבצע דיג ספורטיבי מספינה זו, בכפוף לכך שלא ימצא כל ציוד דיג מקצועי על הספינה. התנאים לדיג ספורטיבי בהתאם לתנאים הקבועים בנהל הרישיונות לדיג ספורטיבי.



רישיון מקצועי לספינה לעסוק בדיג



קבלה מס': _____ הרישיון בתוקף עד: _____
 מספר רישיון: _____

שם: _____ מספר זהות: _____

כתובת: _____ מיקוד: _____

שולם לזכות חשבון: _____
 0-07611-6 בנק הדואר

אג': _____ מס': _____

הסכום לתשלום

מורשה לעסוק בדיג בים:

יש	ים כנרת	מפרץ אילת	רשת	רשת	מערך	מערך	רשתות	מלכודות	מערך
תיכון			מכורות	מכורות	קרקע	קרקע	עמידה		צף

מגבלות:

Example of a commercial fishing license for a vessel

Sport Fishing Licenses

Sport fishing is fishing for sport and recreation. Sport fishermen must act according to the law and help preserve fishing resources. As a sport fisherman, it is important to us that you get to know the law so you can derive maximum enjoyment from your Sport fishing and so we can work together in full cooperation.

The following methods are defined as sport fishing, and require an individual fishing license:

1. Rod from the shoreline with no auxiliary equipment (of any external kind).
2. Rod from any vessel or flotation device.
3. Speargun for use in freediving without the aid of artificial breathing equipment – permissible only in the Mediterranean Sea.
4. Cast net (shabaka) – permissible only in the Mediterranean Sea.

When is a sport fishing license required for a vessel?

1. Fishing with 4–12 active rods from a vessel. In any case, fishing with more than 12 single rods is prohibited.
2. Use of a speargun when freediving from a motorized vessel – permissible only in the Mediterranean Sea.

Restriction on daily catch in sport fishing

Daily catch is limited in quantity to no more than 5 kg or two large fish (even if the weight of each fish exceeds 5 kg).

Daily catch of lionfish (Pterois miles) is not restricted to the above quota.

Please note! Fishing from the shoreline with rod and reel is prohibited at the marine nature reserves of Rosh Hanikra and Dor-Habonim.

Examples of sport fishing licenses – for individuals and vessels

מדינת ישראל
 משרד החקלאות ופיתוח הכפר
 אגף הדיג וחקלאות מים



רישיון דיג אישי ספורטיבי
 (לפי פקודת הדיג, 1937)

תנאים כלליים:

1. הרישיון הינו בר תוקף כשהוא נשא חותמת בנק או אישור תשלום מקוון.
2. בעל הרישיון חייב לשאת את הרישיון בעת הדיג ולהציג את הרישיון לפי דרישת פקיד הדיג או שוטר.
3. על בעל הרישיון להקפיד על שמירת חוקי הדיג והגבלות המתפרסמות בדיון.
4. כמות שלל הדגים המינית לבעל רישיון אישי – בהתאם להוראות הרשמיות בסעיף ב' לפרק 2 בבוהל רישיונות דיג המפורסם באתר האינטרנט של המשרד.

אגף (שאלו) חקלאות מים
 מוקד טלפוני: *6016
www.moag.gov.il
daig@moag.gov.il

רישיון דיג אישי ספורטיבי

קבלה מס': _____ הרישיון בתוקף עד: _____ מספר רישיון _____

שם _____ מספר זהות _____

מיקוד _____

כתובת _____

שולח לזכות חשבון _____
 0-07611-6
 בנק הדואר _____

אג' _____
 מס' _____
הסכום לתשלום

מורשה לעסוק בדיג בים: **בשיטות דיג:**

ים כנרת	מפרץ אילת	ים תיכון	תכה מסירה	רובה תתימי	רשת זריקה
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ראה גם תנאים המופיעים בגב הרישיון.

מגבלות: רובה ורשת זריקה – בים תיכון בלבד

Example of individual Sport fishing license

מדינת ישראל
 משרד החקלאות ופיתוח הכפר
 אגף הדיג וחקלאות מים



רישיון דיג ספורטיבי לספינה
 (לפי פקודת הדיג, 1937)

תנאים כלליים:

1. הרישיון הינו בר תוקף כשהוא נשא חותמת בנק או אישור תשלום מקוון.
2. בעל הרישיון זה חייב לשאת רישיון זה בצמוד לרישיון שיט תוקף מאת רשות הספנות והגמלים, בכל עת שהספינה נמצאת בים.
3. בעל הרישיון חייב להציג את הרישיון לפי דרישת פקיד הדיג, בודק כלי השיט או שוטר.
4. בעל הרישיון /ואו מי מטעמו ינהג בכלי השיט בהתאם להוראות כל דיון, תוך הקפדה על שמירת חוקי הדיג.

אגף (שאלו) חקלאות מים
 מוקד טלפוני: *6016
www.moag.gov.il
daig@moag.gov.il

רישיון דיג ספורטיבי לספינה

קבלה מס': _____ הרישיון בתוקף עד: _____ מספר רישיון _____

שם _____ מספר זהות _____

מיקוד _____

כתובת _____

שולח לזכות חשבון _____
 0-07611-6
 בנק הדואר _____

אג' _____
 מס' _____
הסכום לתשלום

מורשה לעסוק בדיג בים: **בשיטות דיג:**

ים כנרת	מפרץ אילת	ים תיכון	תכה מסירה	רובה תתימי	רשת זריקה
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ראה גם תנאים המופיעים בגב הרישיון.

מגבלות: רובה תתימי בים התיכון בלבד

שם הספינה ומספרה _____

Example of sport fishing license for a vessel

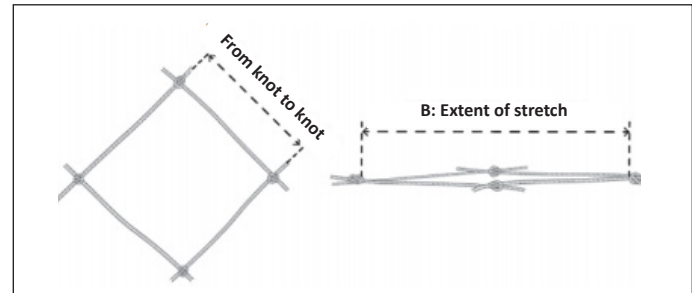
Regulations applicable in all marine zones and permitted fishing seasons

- Fishing by means of compressed-air equipment (or any other air-supply equipment) strictly prohibited.
- Rake fishing (Jarref) is strictly prohibited.
- Fishing by means of any type of explosive or any harmful or toxic materials is strictly prohibited.
- Multiple-point fishhooks (“anchor” hooks) designed to catch a fish by its body are strictly prohibited both from the shoreline and from a fishing vessel.
- Fishing in [marine nature reserves](#) is prohibited by law.
- Rod fishing from the shoreline in marine nature reserves is prohibited except at places and by methods permitted by the reserve’s regulations.
- Harming, possession and trafficking of protected species is also prohibited outside the reserve.

Please note! Only fishing methods specified on your fishing license are permissible.

Mesh Size

A minimal mesh size is specified for each net-fishing method. Mesh size is measured in two ways: from knot to knot (illustration A) and the extent of stretch (illustration B). In a standard net, extension will always be twice the distance from knot to knot. For example mesh size of 22 mm from knot to knot will be 44 mm when stretched.



Minimum Permissible Catch Length

Species not listed in the table are not subject to catch size restriction, unless they are protected species and unlawful to catch.

[The List of Protected Species](#) in Israel is found on the Israel Nature and Parks Authority website. Please note: As of April 2021, the goldblotch grouper has been added to the list of protected species and is unlawful to catch.

Minimum Length







“Minimum length” refers to the length of a fish that may be lawfully caught. The fish is measured prone, from the end of its mouth to the end of its tail. The reason for a minimum permissible catch length is to avoid catching young fish before they have reached sexual maturity, and therefore they have not yet produced a new generation.







If you catch a fish that is shorter than the minimum length stated, throw it back into the water immediately even if it is not alive.



Photo: Guy Levian

Saltwater Fish

Minimum Permissible Catch Length	Species
11 cm or more	Common pandora <i>Pagellus erythrinus</i> 
	Saddled seabream <i>Oblada melanura</i> 
	Sand steenbras <i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i> 
	Bogue <i>Boops boops</i> 
	White seabream <i>Diplodus sargus</i> 
	Zebra seabream <i>Diplodus cervinus</i> 

Minimum Permissible Catch Length	Species
11 cm or more	Annular seabream <i>Diplodus annularis</i> 
	Red mullet <i>Mullus barbatus</i> 
	Striped red mullet <i>Mullus surmuletus</i> 
	Goldband goatfish <i>Upeneus moluccensis</i> 
	Jack mackerels (saurels) <i>Trachurus sp.</i> 
	Shrimp scad <i>Alepes djedaba</i> 

Saltwater Fish

Minimum Permissible Catch Length	Species
11 cm or more	Round sardinella <i>Sardinella aurita</i>
	Madeiran sardinella <i>Sardinella maderensis</i>
	Slender rainbow sardine <i>Saurida undosquamis</i> <i>Saurida lessepsianus</i>
15 cm or more	Gilt-head seabream  <i>Sparus aurata</i>
	Pink dentex  <i>Dentex gibbosus</i>
	Red porgy (<i>Pagrus sp.</i>) (The Bluespotted seabream is also included under the name <i>Pagrus sp.</i>) 

Minimum Permissible Catch Length	Species
16 cm or more	European hake  <i>Merluccius merluccius</i>
	Common sole <i>Solea solea / Solea vulgaris</i>
	Lessepsian lizardfish <i>Saurida undosquamis</i> <i>Saurida lessepsianus</i>
20 cm or more	Flathead grey mullet  <i>Mugil cephalua/ Mugil cephalus</i>
	Golden grey mullet <i>Liza aurata/Chelon auratus</i>
	Leaping mullet <i>Liza saliens/Chelon saliens</i>

Saltwater Fish

Minimum Permissible Catch Length	Species
20 cm or more	Thicklip grey mullet <i>Chelon labrosus</i>
	Thinlip mullet <i>Liza ramada/Chelon ramada</i>
	European/ Mediterranean barracuda <i>Sphyaena sphyaens/ Sphyaena sphyaena</i>
	Red barracuda <i>Sphyaena chrysaenia/ Sphyaena pinguis</i>
30 cm or more	Atlantic wreckfish <i>Polyprion americanus</i>
	Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>

Minimum Permissible Catch Length	Species
40 cm or more	Meagre <i>Argyrosomus regius</i>
	Dusky grouper <i>Epinephelus marginatus</i>
	Mottled grouper <i>Mycteroperca rubra</i>
	White grouper <i>Epinephelus aeneus</i>
	Atlantic bluefin tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>
70 cm or more	

Freshwater Fish

Minimum Permissible Catch Length	Species
12 cm or more	Kinneret bream/bleak <i>Mirogrex terraesanctae</i>
18 cm or more	Tvarnun simon <i>Tristramella simonis</i>
20 cm or more	Blue tilapia <i>Oreochromis aureus</i>
22 cm or more	Mango tilapia <i>Sarotherodon galilaeus</i>
30 cm or more	Jordan barbel <i>Barbus longiceps/Luciobarbus longiceps</i>



Minimum Permissible Catch Length	Species
30 cm or more	Levantine scraper/Mesopotamian barb <i>Capoeta damascina</i>
30 cm or more	Jordan himri <i>Tor canis/ Carasobarbus canis</i>
45 cm or more	Flathead grey mullet <i>Mugil cephalus/ Mugil cephalus</i>
45 cm or more	Thinlip mullet <i>Liza ramada/Chelon ramada</i>
80 cm or more	Silver carp <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>



The Mediterranean Sea

Professional (Commercial) Fishing – Regulations and Guidelines

Trawling

Fishing Ban During Recruitment Phase

Each year a fishing ban will be in effect for up to 90 consecutive days between May 1 and August 31, as determined by the chief fishery official. An announcement of the precise dates, including permits and exceptions will be published by the chief fishing official in the daily press and on the website of the Israel Agricultural Ministry Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Length of Sack

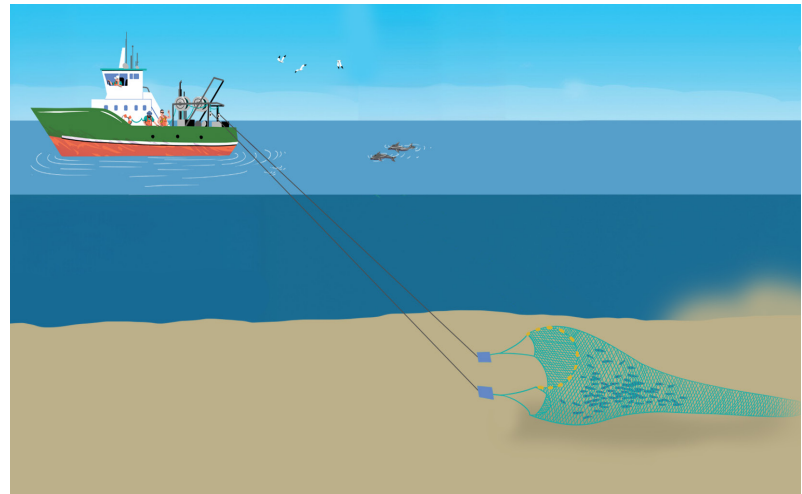
Minimum permissible sack length:
4 m.

Beam Trawl

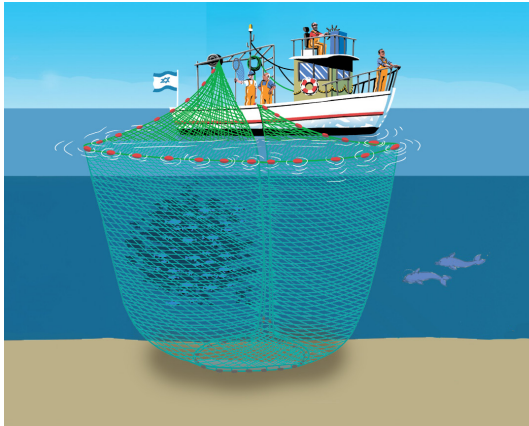
Use of a beam trawl, a net held open by a rigid framework to maintain the opening of the trawl and dragged on the seabed, is prohibited.

Bottom Trawling Aids

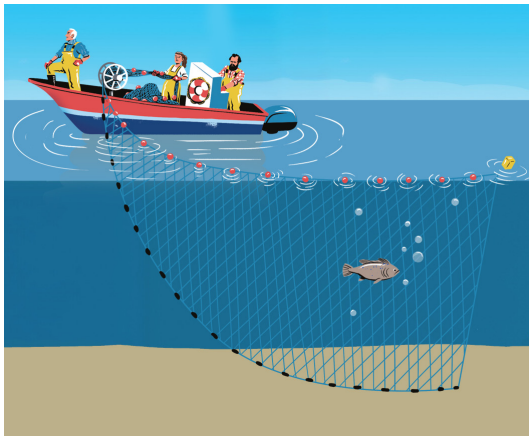
Use of balls, tires, wheels or other equipment attached to the net to aid in dragging it over rocks and preventing it from becoming entangled is prohibited.



Trawling



Ring net fishing



Gillnet fishing

Shoreline Fishing

Streams and Estuaries

Fishing in Mediterranean streams or within 100 m of an estuary is prohibited.

Restriction on directing or driving fish movement

Use is prohibited of means to drive fish into nets or traps, or to force fish out of their hiding places.

Gillnet (Zimim/Sabkha)

Fishing by this method is permitted from a sailing vessel provided that the combined length of the nets is less than 2,000 m.

Minimum mesh size: 30 mm from knot to knot

Purse seine (Ring net/"Chinchula")

Do not fish by this method less than 500 m from the shoreline.

Minimum mesh size: 12 mm from knot to knot.

Demersal longline (Demersal Sharak)

Fishing by this method is prohibited from a sailing vessel if the combined length of the line exceeds 5,000 m or the number of hooks exceeds 1,500.

Pelagic longline (Pelagic Sharak)

This method is prohibited from a sailing vessel if the combined length of the line exceeds 60,000 m or the number of hooks exceeds 2,000.

Sport Fishing – Regulations and Guidelines

All fishing methods require an individual fishing license except for rod fishing from the shoreline, with no auxiliary equipment to enhance your efforts and extend the reach of the hook from the shore into the sea – for example a drone, kite, balloon, battery or electric motor.

Rod fishing from the shoreline

Use of auxiliary methods requires an individual fishing license. At the marine reserves of Rosh Hanikra, Shikmona and Dor-Habonim, rod-and-reel fishing is prohibited.

Rod fishing from a vessel

Rod fishing from a vessel requires an individual fishing license. If from 4 to 12 hooks are in use from the vessel, a Sport fishing license for the vessel must also be obtained. In any case, fishing with more than 12 hooks is prohibited.

Cast net (shabaka)

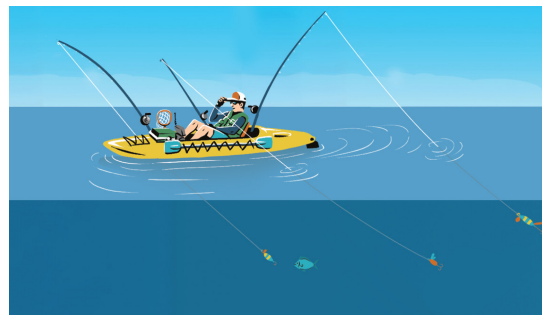
Minimum mesh size: 12 mm from knot to knot.

Speargun for use in freediving without the aid of artificial breathing equipment

Use of this method requires an individual fishing license. Fishing from a motorized vessel requires a Sport fishing license for the vessel as well.

Restriction on Daily Catch in Sport Fishing

Daily catch is limited in quantity to no more than 5 kg or two large fish (even if the weight of each fish exceeds 5 kg). Daily catch of lionfish (*Pterois miles*) is not restricted to the above quota.



Protected Plant and Animal Life – the Mediterranean Sea

Protected Species in All Marine Zones

Catching the following species is strictly prohibited in any place, of any size and by any method:

- Any and all shark and batoid species (for example, Rhinobatos and whiptail stingrays)
- Mediterranean slipper lobster
- Any and all species of marine mammals
- Any and all species of sea turtles

This list is partial; there are many other protected species. [The full list](#) can be found on the Israel Nature and Parks Authority website.

Golden grouper

In addition all other protected species in Israel, since April 2021, [the golden grouper has been added to the list of protected species and catching it is prohibited](#).

If you encounter an injured marine mammal or amphibian in need of medical attention

Call the Israel Nature and Parks Authority hotline: *3639 (24 hours a day)



Golden grouper

Fishing Ban during Breeding Season

Fishing Ban during Breeding Season

Each year a fishing ban will be in effect for up to 90 consecutive days between March 1 and July 1, as determined by the chief fishery official. An announcement of the precise dates, including permits and exceptions, will be published by the chief fishing official in the daily press and on the website of the [Israel Agricultural Ministry Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture](#). This ban does not apply to trawling or rod fishing from the shoreline.

Ban on grouper fishing during breeding season

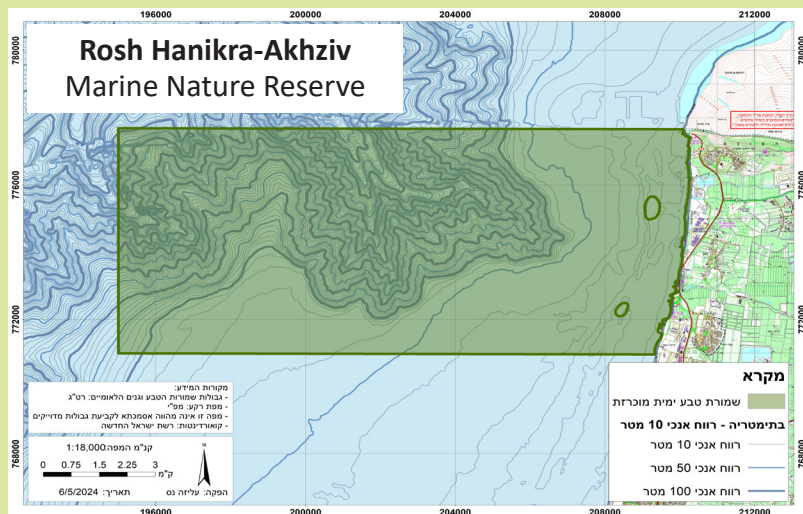
A ban on catch of the sub-family of groupers will be implemented following an announcement by the chief fisheries officer.

Officially declared marine nature reserves in the Mediterranean Sea

Fishing in marine nature reserves is prohibited.

All fishermen must be familiar with the marine nature reserve boundaries on the Government Maps Site.

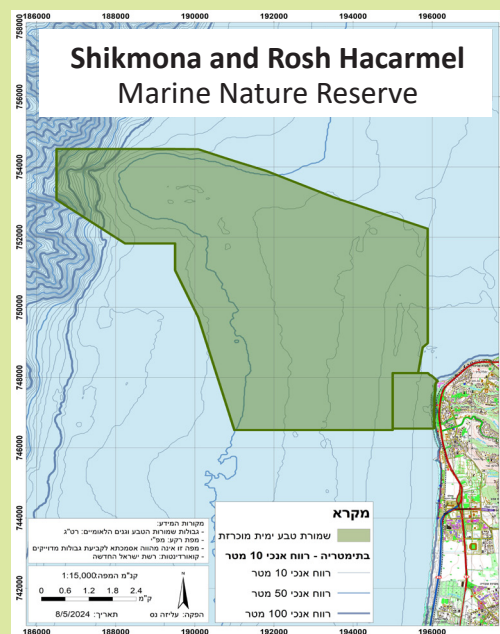
- You can view the layer of officially declared marine nature reserves on the [Government Maps website](#).
- [Reserve boundaries identified by coordinates](#) can be found on the Israel Nature and Parks Authority website.
- The boundaries of some reserves are marked by green and white poles situated on the beach. When viewed from the sea, two poles coinciding, the one concealing the one behind it indicates that the viewer is at the boundary of the reserve.

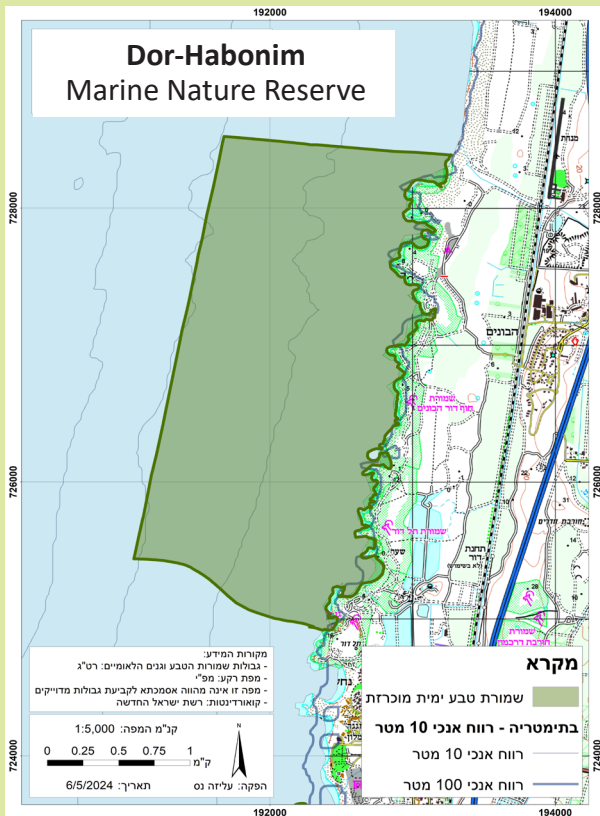


Western boundary: c. 15 km from the shoreline

Northern boundary: Israel-Lebanon border (the white rock of Rosh Hanikra)

Southern boundary: c. 600 m from the southern boundary of Akhziv

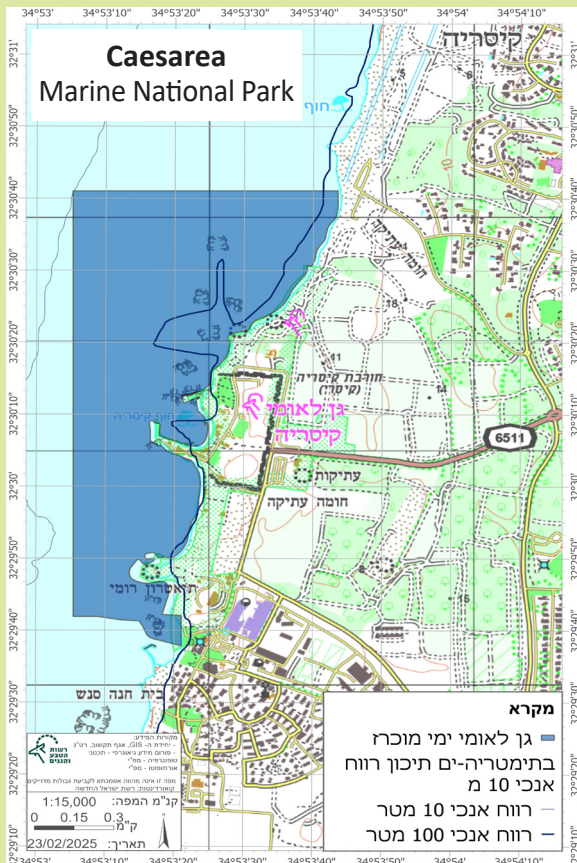




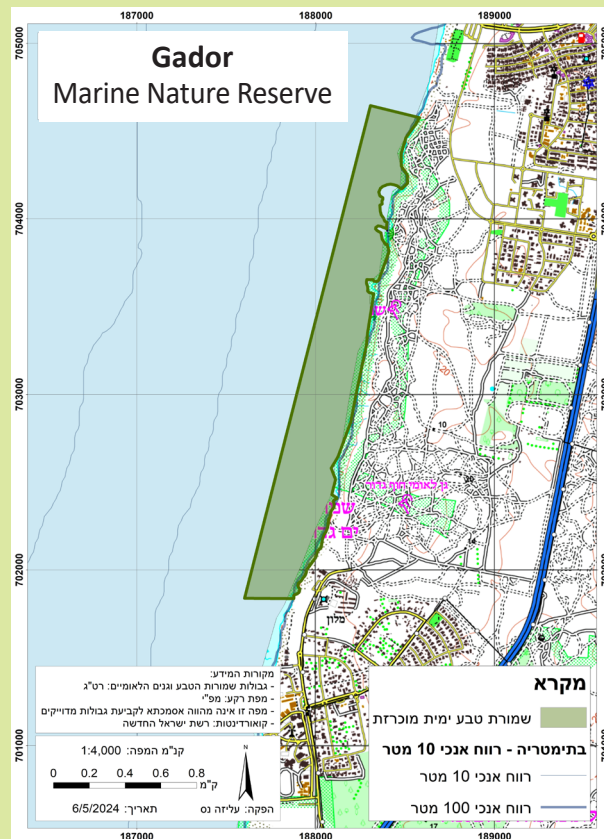
Western boundary: c. 2 km from the shoreline
Northern boundary: Maharal Stream estuary
Southern boundary: Northern boundary of Dor Beach (including Tel Dor)



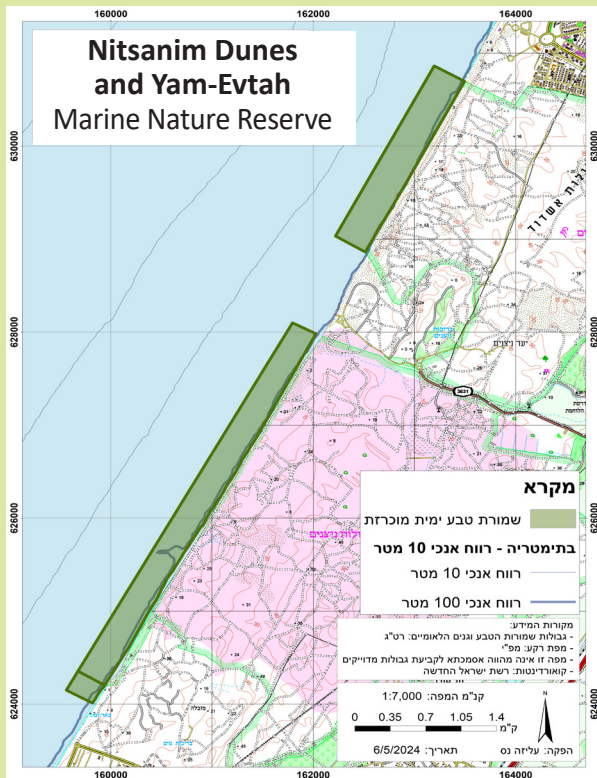
Hofmi Island – the largest and southernmost of the group of islands opposite Moshav Dor, south of Tel Dor.
Hayonim Island – The largest and centermost island opposite Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, marked with green signage.



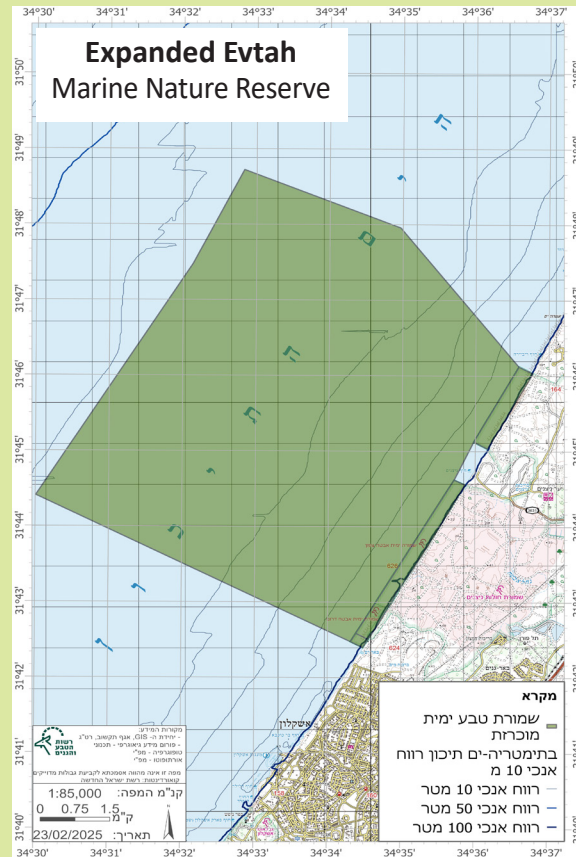
Western boundary: approximately 500 m from the shoreline. **Northern boundary:** Aqueduct Beach
Southern boundary: Kibbutz Sdot Yam pier



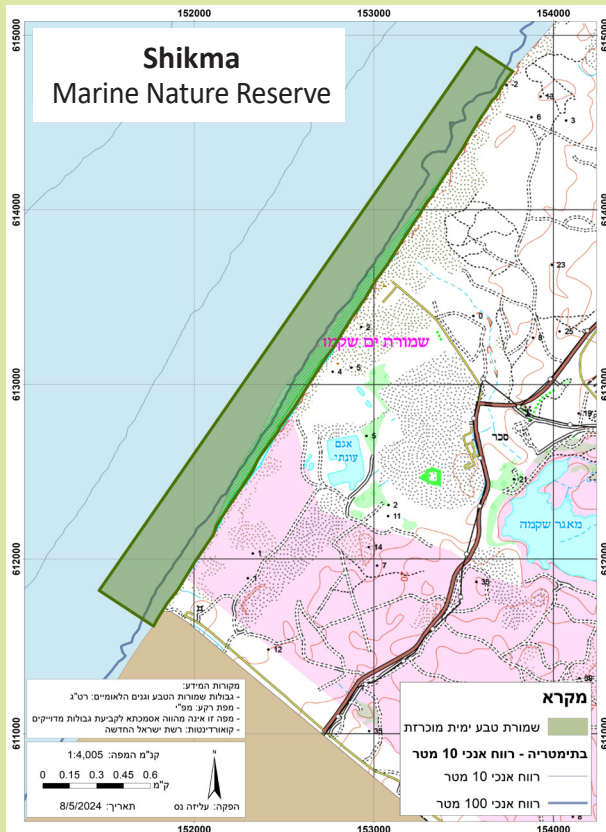
Western boundary: 300 m from the shoreline. **Northern boundary:** The pool in the southern part of Givat Olga Beach. **Southern boundary:** Tel Girit, south of the Cushi Restaurant in Hadera



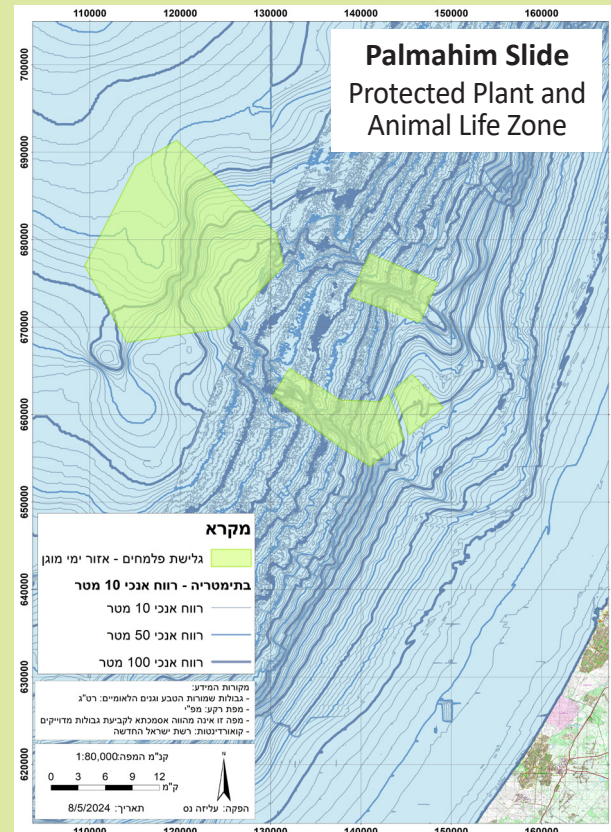
Western boundary: c. 300 m from the shoreline
Northern boundary of Nitsanim Dunes: Tu Beach. **Southern boundary of Nitsanim Dunes:** the northern boundary of the officially declared Nitsanim Beach. **Southern boundary of the Evtah-Yam Marine Nature Reserve:** the northern municipal boundary of the city of Ashkelon



Western boundary: approximately 7 km from the shoreline
Northern boundary: the southern beach of Ashdod
Southern boundary: The northern city limits of Ashkelon



Western boundary: c. 250 m from the shoreline
Northern boundary: 500 m south of the Ashkelon Power Station smokestacks
Southern boundary: the Gaza border (closed military zone)



The Sea of Galilee

Professional (Commercial) Fishing

Longline fishing (Sharak)

This method is prohibited in the Sea of Galilee.

Gillnet Fishing (Zimim/Sabkha)

This method is prohibited from the shoreline at the Sea of Galilee, but permitted from a fishing boat (the boat must be suitably licensed) on condition that the combined length of the nets is less than 1,000 m.

Purse seine (ring net/“skalava”)

The purse seine net, used to catch tilapia, catfish and barbus, is prohibited in the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River system, if the sack is less than 15 m long and less than 10 m high.

Minimum mesh size

The minimum mesh size for a purse seine and a gillnet is 45 mm from knot to knot.



Photo: Ziv Birman

Sport Fishing – Regulations and Guidelines

Rod Fishing from a Vessel

The only method of sport fishing permitted in the Sea of Galilee is rod fishing from a vessel.

- An individual fishing license is required for this method.
- Vessels using this method in the Sea of Galilee are restricted to a maximum of three rods.

Rod Fishing from the Shoreline

- Rod fishing from the shoreline without the use of auxiliary equipment is permitted and does not require an individual fishing license.
- Auxiliary equipment is any equipment that enhances your efforts and extend the reach of the hook from the shore into the lake, for example a drone, kite, balloon, battery or electric motor.
- Multiple-point fishhooks (“anchor hooks”) designed to capture a fish by its body are strictly prohibited both from the shoreline and from a fishing vessel.
- Rod fishing from the shoreline in marine nature reserves is prohibited except at sites and by methods permitted by the reserve’s regulations and by legal permit.

Protected Plant and Animal Life – Sea of Galilee

In addition to animal species that are protected in all marine areas, some species in Israel are also protected in freshwater (such as lakes and streams), including the Sea of Galilee.

- Syrian loach (*Oxynoemacheilus insignis*)
- Endemic freshwater mussels *Potomida littoralis semirugata* and *Unio terminalis terminalis*

[The full list](#) appears on the Israel Nature and Parks Authority website.

Please note! **Jordan barbel** (*Luciobarbus longiceps*), although it is protected in all other bodies of water in Israel, is not protected in the Sea of Galilee.



Fishing Ban During Nesting and Egg-laying Periods

Fishing Ban During Nesting and Egg-laying Periods

Each year a fishing ban will be in effect for up to 90 consecutive days between March 15 and July 15, as determined by the chief fishery official. An announcement of the precise dates and applicable zones will be published by the chief fishing official in the daily press and on the website of the [Israel Agricultural Ministry Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture](https://www.maf.gov.il/fisheries).

A fishing ban during nesting and egg-laying periods will be in effect in the following areas:

- The Migdal-Ginossar and the Betiha zones (according to the chief fishing official and coordinates appearing on the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture website)
- Sport fishing is prohibited from the shoreline to a distance of 100 m all around the Sea of Galilee.

A ban on fishing is in effect year round at the Betiha (Bethsaida) reserve.

Map of no-fishing zones during nesting and egg-laying periods

The layers of no-fishing zones can be viewed on the website of [the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture](https://www.maf.gov.il/fisheries).

The precise coordinates of these areas can be found in the file [“Fishing Regulations \(Amendment\) – 2016”](#).

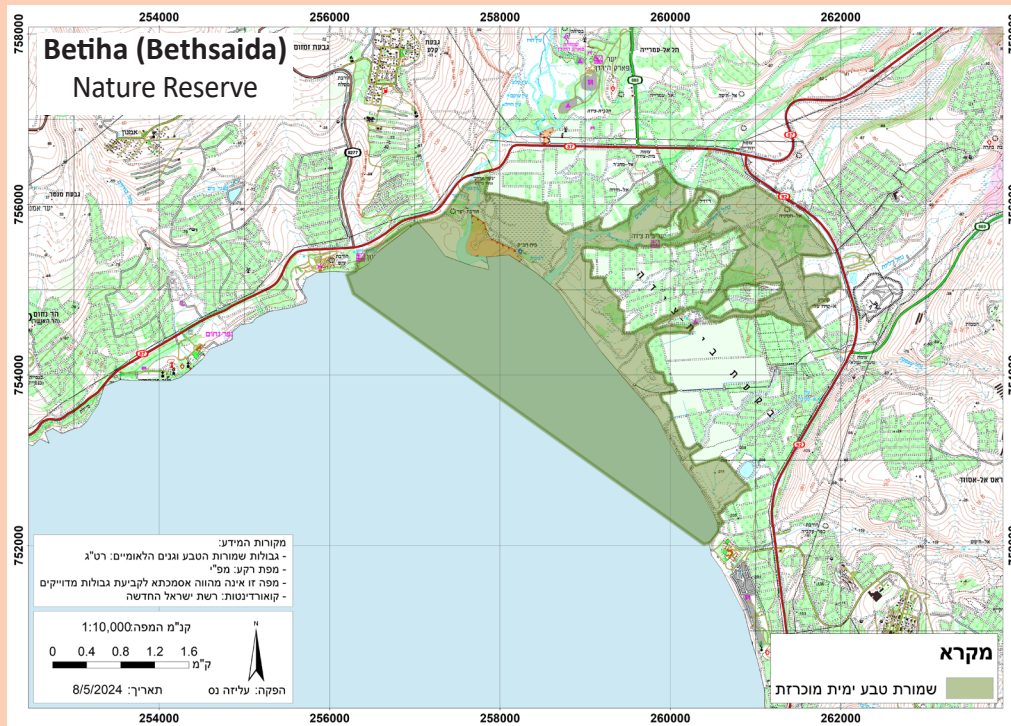
Nature Reserves at the Sea of Galilee

Betiha (Bethsaida) Nature Reserve

- Fishing is prohibited by law in the reserve
- Motorized boating is prohibited year round in the reserve

You can view the layer of officially declared marine nature reserves on the [Government Maps website](#).

On the Israel Nature and Parks Authority website you can find the [boundaries of the reserves by coordinates](#).



The Gulf of Eilat

Professional (Commercial) Fishing – Regulations and Guidelines

Gillnet fishing (Zimim/Sabkha)

This fishing method is prohibited from the shores of the Gulf of Eilat, but permitted from a boat, on condition that the total length of the nets is less than 2,000 m. The minimal size of a gillnet is 30 mm from knot to knot.

Purse seine (ring net/“chinchula”)

Minimal mesh size of the purse seine is 12 mm from knot to knot.

Permanent net (trap)

Do not leave a net or cage on the seabed for more than seven days.

Minimal mesh size for fish or crab traps is 30 mm from one joint to another in all parts of the trap, and a plastic tab must be attached to the buoy stating the details of the fishing license and the owner of the trap.

Demersal Longline

This fishing method is prohibited from a vessel if the cumulative length of the line exceeds 5,000 m or the number of hooks exceeds 1,500.

Pelagic Longline

This fishing method is prohibited from a boat if the cumulative length of the line exceeds 60,000 m or the number of hooks exceeds 2,000.

Only members of the Scombridae family or swordfish (*Xiphidae*) may be caught using this method.



Photo: Omri Omasi

Sport fishing – Regulations and Guidelines

Rod fishing from a sailing vessel

This is the only sport fishing method permitted in the Gulf of Eilat. A fishing license must be obtained for this purpose.

- When fishing by means of 4–12 active rods from the vessel, a sport fishing license must be issued for the fishing vessel. In any case use of more than 12 individual rods is prohibited.
- Fishing is permitted only beyond the range of 300 m from the shoreline in places where fishing is not prohibited or in marine nature reserves.

Rod Fishing from the Shoreline

All methods of fishing require an individual fishing license except for rod fishing from the shoreline, with no auxiliary equipment, for example a drone, kite, balloon, battery or electric motor.

Protected Plant and Animal Life – Gulf of Eilat

In addition to the protected species on all marine zones in Israel (shark species, marine mammals, sea turtles, and others), the list of protected species in the Gulf of Eilat is more extensive: All molluscs are protected (for example clams and cuttlefish) and all the protected species, with the exception of the families listed below.

Spinefoot	Siganidae
Seabream	Sparidae
Mullet	Mugilidae
Goatfish	Mullidae
Jacks, amberjacks	Carangidae
Mackerels	Scombridae
Swordfish	Xiphiidae

Baracuda	Sphyraenidae
Snappers	Lutjanidae
Fusiliers	Caesionidae
Needle fish, long toms	Belonidae
Halfbeak, pipefish	Hemiramphidae
Cutlassfish	Trichiuridae
Cometfish, flutemouth	Fistulariidae
Mojarra	Gerreidae

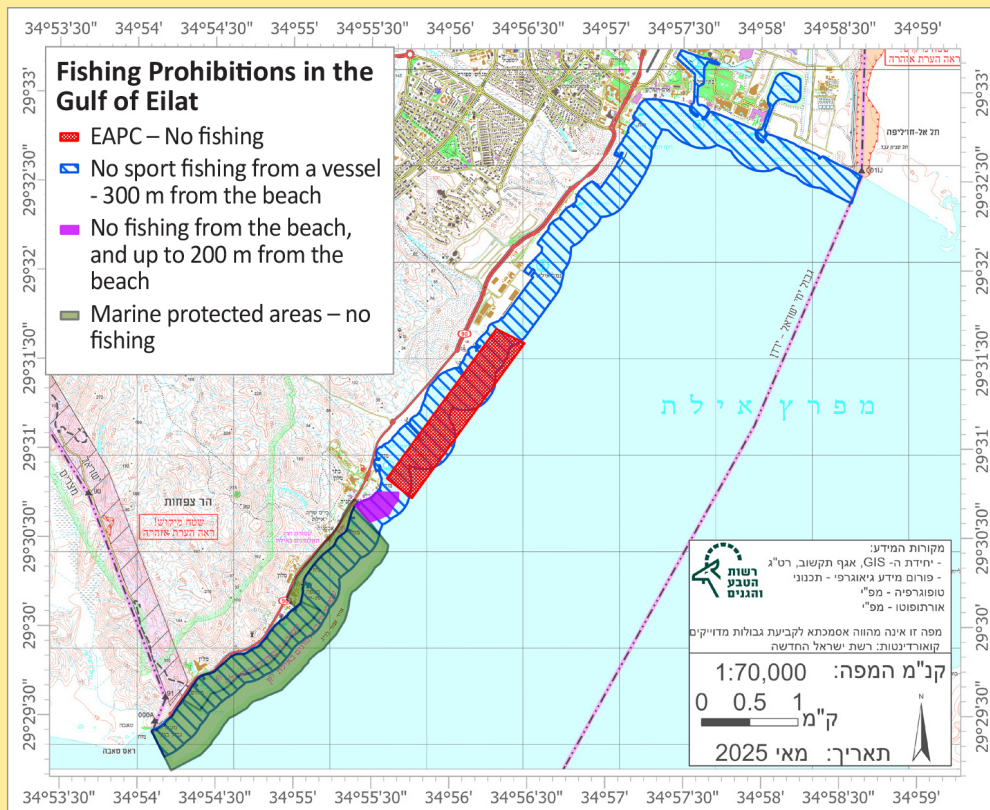
Treadfin breams	Nemipteridae
Pike congers	Muraenesocidae
Flying fish	Exocoetidae
Herrings	Clupeidae
Anchovies	Engraulidae
Snake mackerels	Gempylidae

No-Fishing Zones

Map of No-Fishing Zones in the Gulf of Eilat

The layer of no-fishing zones can be viewed on the [Ministry of Agriculture website](#)

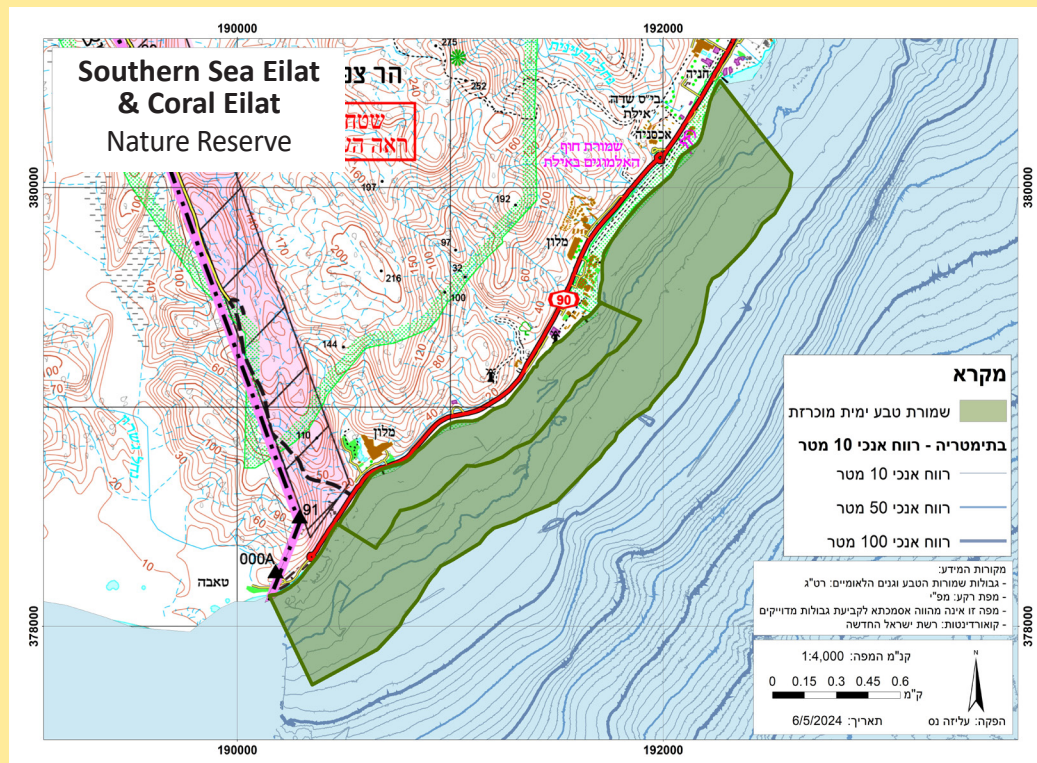
The precise coordinates of these zones can be found in the file "[Fishing Regulations \(Amendment – 2016\)](#)"



Nature Reserves in Eilat

Coral and Southern Sea Nature Reserves

- You can view the layer of officially declared marine nature reserves on the [Government Maps Site](#).
- [Reserve boundaries identified by coordinates](#) can be found on the Israel Nature and Parks Authority website.



Thank you for your cooperation!



Photo: Omri Omasi

For more information:
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**Israel Nature and Parks Authority
hotline *3639**

**Israel Nature and Parks Authority
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Bathymetric seabed mapping:
Energy and Infrastructure Ministry;
Geological Institute; Oceanographic
and Limnological Research Institute

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June 2024



You – and your cooperation as the members of the fishing community – will allow us to achieve our shared goal – sustainable management of Israel’s fishing resources. By following the regulations and restrictions we can help ensure that everyone continues to enjoy the water and its limited resources.

The information presented here is for explanatory purposes only and does not in any way replace the legally binding information in the updated document entitled “Fishing Regulations – 1937” and the document “Fishing Licenses – Procedure.”

Man and place | *3639 |  | www.parks.org.il

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