



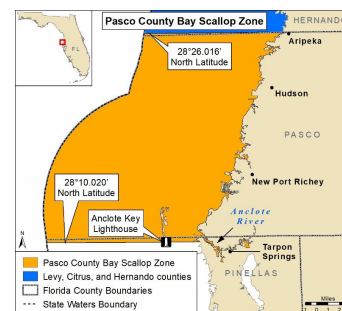
# Safe Scalping Guide

Updated summary of the Pasco Zone season, bag limits, gear rules, and best practices verified against current FWC public information.

## Current Pasco Zone snapshot

- Season: July 10 – Aug. 18.
- Area: state waters south of the Hernando–Pasco line and north of Anclote Key Lighthouse, including the Anclote River.
- Daily limit: 2 gallons whole scallops in shell or 1 pint meat per person.
- Vessel limit: 10 gallons whole scallops in shell or 1/2 gallon meat per vessel, whichever is less.
- Minimum size limit: none.

## Pasco County Bay Scallop Zone



Source: FWC Pasco Zone map (current season reference).

## Rules that matter

- Legal harvest gear is by hand or with a landing/dip net only.
- Commercial harvest is prohibited.
- A Florida saltwater fishing license is required unless an exemption applies or a harvester has a no-cost shoreline license and is wading from shore.
- Vessel limits do not allow an individual to exceed the personal bag limit.

## Best-practice reminders

- Use the 2-inch voluntary sorter message: if it fits through, let it grow.
- Check scallops while still in the water and release small ones immediately in the same habitat.
- Do not dump shells in inshore waters used for recreation. FWC warns shell piles can create hazards and damage habitat.



# Safe Scalloping Guide

Page 2: trip planning and responsible behavior checklist.

## Before the trip

- Confirm current dates, advisories, and weather.
- Bring water, sunscreen, a dive flag, first aid basics, and a mesh bag.
- Review local ramps, parking, and launch etiquette.
- Teach children how to spot and protect shallow grass flats.

## During harvest

- Stay with the flag or vessel.
- Collect by hand rather than disturbing the bottom.
- Handle scallops gently and release small ones quickly.
- Avoid crowded channels and respect other boaters, swimmers, and paddlers.

## After the trip

- Measure what you keep against the legal bag limit.
- Dispose of shells responsibly.
- Rinse gear and check the boat for trash and fishing line.
- Share official post-trip surveys or observations when available.

## Use this guide with the companion real-image print page.

The HTML print version adds real photos and the same current information for outreach tables and color printing.