

Proposed Rule Language
Skyway Fishing Pier State Park
Rule 68B-5.007, F.A.C.
Agenda Item # 8 B
February 21, 2023

68B-5.007 Skyway Fishing Pier State Park: Education Course Requirement; Gear Restrictions.

(1) A person may not participate in fishing within Skyway Fishing Pier State Park unless such person has first successfully completed within the previous 12 months a Commission-approved Pier Fishing education course, as provided herein:

(a) The Commission shall provide a Pier Fishing education course, available at: [http://www.myfwc.com/.....]. Instructions for completing the Pier Fishing education course and the minimum requirements for the course content are contained in the "Florida Pier Fishing Education Course Guide," Form PFEC-1 (effective October 1, 2023), incorporated herein by reference and available at [http://www.flrules.org/gateway/reference.....], or from the Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600.

(b) The Commission shall issue proof of completion to a person who has successfully completed a Commission-approved Pier Fishing education course. Such proof of completion shall be valid for 12 months from the date of issuance.

(c) A person under 16 years of age who has not successfully completed a Commission-approved Pier Fishing education course may participate in fishing within Skyway Fishing Pier State Park only if such person is fishing under the supervision of, and in the presence of, a person 16 years of age or older who has successfully completed within the previous 12 months a Commission-approved Pier Fishing education course.

(2) A person may not use more than two sets of hook and line gear at any time on or from Skyway Pier State Park.

(3) A person may not use a sabiki or flasher rig on or from the portion of South Skyway Fishing Pier that extends approximately 0.23 miles (approximately 1,227 feet) in a southeasterly direction from the point where the pier terminates in Tampa Bay (the portion of the pier that lies northwest of the northernmost restroom building).

(4) The following gear restrictions apply within Skyway Fishing Pier State Park from November 1 through March 31 of the following year:

(a) A person may not use hook and line gear to which more than one hook is attached.

(b) A person may not use or possess any multiple hook.

(5) For purposes of this rule:

(a) "Fishing" means:

1. The catching, taking, or harvesting of a marine organism;

2. The attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of a marine organism;

3. Any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of a marine organism.

(b) "Sabiki" or "flasher rig" means hook and line gear that has a main line with several branching lines spaced at regular intervals to which small hooks are attached and is typically used to harvest baitfish.

(c) "South Skyway Fishing Pier" means the public fishing pier within the Skyway Fishing Pier State Park that begins in Manatee County and extends in a northwesterly direction, terminating in Tampa Bay.

(6) The Commission shall review the Skyway Pier fishing regulations prior to October 1, 2025, and determine whether the regulations are appropriate or if they should be repealed or expanded.

Rulemaking Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History--New 10-1-23.

