

## Recreational Saltwater Fishing – Finfish

**Recreational saltwater fishing in New Hampshire provides diverse opportunities.** Saltwater anglers can cast a line from boats, bridges, jetties or the beach. Many saltwater fish species are available along the coast and in our rivers and bays. Recreational saltwater fishing in N.H. requires a recreational saltwater license. See [Recreational Licenses](#) for details.

Below are species that have rules or laws that apply to recreational anglers or spearfishers while fishing in state waters.

Additional regulations apply in federal waters for most of the below-listed species — contact NOAA Fisheries at (978) 281-9315 or [nero.noaa.gov/sfd/recfishing](http://nero.noaa.gov/sfd/recfishing) directly if you have questions regarding fishing in federal waters.

### 2015 New Hampshire Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

SPECIES	Closed Season	Minimum Length	Daily Bag Limit	Special Rules
American Eel	No closed season (except surrounding fishways)	9 inches	25 fish per day	Fishway closures apply October 2 – June 14 (see <a href="#">Coastal Harvest Section</a> )
American Plaice*		14 inches		
American Shad				All shad must be immediately released
Atlantic Cod*			0	Effective May 1, 2015, all cod caught in New Hampshire waters must be immediately released.  Gulf of Maine <a href="#">Cod Spawning Protection Area</a> ; see map.
Atlantic Halibut		41 inches	1 fish per trip/vessel	Head and tail intact while on or leaving waters of the state
Atlantic Sea Herring				Federal regulations apply in federal waters
Atlantic Salmon (Sea-run)				All sea-run Atlantic salmon caught on coastal and estuarine waters must be immediately released
Atlantic Wolffish			Possession is prohibited	
Black Sea Bass		13 inches	10 fish per day	Length does not include filament/tail extension
Bluefin Tuna				Federally managed — follow federal regulations (call 1-888-USA-TUNA) or visit <a href="http://hmspermits.noaa.gov">hmspermits.noaa.gov</a>
Bluefish			10 fish per day	
Dogfish, Spiny				Finning prohibited
Haddock*	Sept. 1 – Nov. 30 Mar. 1 – April 30	17 inches	3 fish per day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 13 inches minimum</li><li>Effective May 1, 2015, size limit is 17 inches.</li></ul>
Monkfish		17 inches		
Pollock*				19 inches, if taken in federal waters
Rainbow Smelt (Saltwater)			4 liquid quarts	Head and tail must remain intact
Redfish*		9 inches		



126 captures

20 Jan 2013 - 21 Feb 2020

Go

JUN JUL SEP

12

2014 2015 2016

About this capture

Herring)			closed	
Salters (Sea-run Trout)	No closed season	1 fish per day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recreational angling only</li><li>• In Berry Brook: Single-hook artificial lures and flies only.</li><li>• In Winnicut River: The salter daily limit applies only downstream of the B&amp;M Railroad bridge</li></ul>
Sharks — Blue, Porbeagle, Shortfin Mako and Thresher				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Porbeagle — recreational fishing in state waters only</li><li>• All sharks — head, fins and tail must remain attached through landing</li></ul>
Striped Bass		28 inches	1 fish per day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Head and tail must remain intact while on or leaving state waters or shores (no fillets); Gaffing is prohibited; No sale allowed, regardless of origin</li></ul>
Sturgeon	Closed year round		Possession is prohibited	
Summer Flounder*		15 inches		Recreational angling only; No sale allowed
White Perch			25 fish per day	
Winter Flounder*		12 inches	8 fish per day	
Yellowtail Flounder*		13 inches		

\*All groundfish species that are filleted and skinned must retain at least 2 square inches of contiguous skin intact for identification purposes.



**Conservation Partner Advertisements:** The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department allows appropriate advertising in its annual regulation guides in print and online, in order to defray or eliminate expenses to the state, and support enhanced communications with New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Constituents. Through a unique partnership with J.F.Griffin Publishing, LLC & eRegulations.com, 'Conservation Partners' have been established that pay for advertising in support of the regulations both in print and online. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department neither endorses products or services listed or claims made; nor accepts any liability arising from the use of products or services listed. Advertisers interested in the Conservation Partners program should contact J.F.Griffin/eRegulations.com directly at 413-884-1001.

J.F. Griffin Media reaches 9,000,000 sportsmen every year through our print and digital publications. We produce 30 hunting and fishing regulation guides for 15 state agencies. For advertising information, please visit: [www.jfgriffin.com](http://www.jfgriffin.com)