

Fishing

Marine Fishing

Hunting

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Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations listed below are subject to change during the 2015 season.

Species	Note	Min. Size	Open Periods	Possession Limits
American Eel	(1)	9"	All Year	25 fish
American Shad	(2)	None	All Year	Closed with exceptions
Black Sea Bass	(3)	14"	May 23 – August 27	8 Fish
Blue Marlin		Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.		
Bluefish		None	All Year	10 fish
Cod (North of Cape Cod)	(4)	Prohibited.		
Cod (South & East of Cape Cod)		22"	All Year	10 fish
Dab (Plaice)		14"	All Year	None
Fluke		16"	May 22 – September 23	5 fish
Gray Sole (Witch)		14"	All Year	None
Haddock	See www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for current regulations			
Halibut		41"	All Year	1 fish
Monkfish		None	All Year	None
Pollock		None	All Year	None
Redfish		None	All Year	None
River Herring		Harvest, possession, sale and use are prohibited.		
Sailfish		Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.		
	Private	10"	May 1 – December 31	30 Fish
Scup	For-Hire Bonus	10"	May 1 – June 30	45 Fish
	For-Hire Regular	10"	July 1 – December 31	30 Fish
Sharks (excludes spiny dogfish)	See www.mass.gov/marinefisheries for current regulations.			
Smelt		None	June 16 – March 14	50 fish
Spiny Dogfish		None	All year	None
Striped Bass	(5)	28"	All Year	1 Fish
Tautog		16"	All Year	3 Fish
Tunas		Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.		
Weakfish		16"	All year	1 fish
White Marlin		Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.		
White Perch		8"	All year	25 fish
Windowpane Flounder	Prohibited			
Winter Flounder (North of Cape Cod)		12"	All year	8 fish



<http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/fishing/saltwater/recreational-saltwater-fishing-regulations>

Go

MAR APR MAY

18

2012 2015 2016



About this capture

[111 captures](#)

7 Jul 2011 - 1 Jan 2019

Yellowtail Flounder

13"

All year

None

Notes:

1. Subject to regulation by the Division and local community. Consult local regulations.
2. American Shad is a catch and release fishery, except for on the Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers where anglers may retain up to 3 fish per day.
3. Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.
4. Federal rules apply beyond state waters. Consult NOAA Fisheries for permitting requirements and regulations.
5. Striped bass must be kept whole, with head, tail and body intact – no mutilation permitted (other than evisceration). Note: Permitted party/charter vessel operators may fillet striped bass for their customers. See 322 CMR 6.07 (4)(g) for details.

Prohibitions

Snagging, snatching of anadromous fish: including shad, smelt, white perch, striped bass, trout, and salmon, but excluding alewives or blueback herring.

The taking of striped bass by any means other than hook and line.

To “high-grade” striped bass, i.e. the discard of dead, legal size striped bass.

To retain live striped bass in the water by attaching to a stringer or placing in a live well or holding car.

The taking of billfish using gear other than a rod and reel.

The taking of Atlantic salmon, sturgeon, all marine mammals, all sea turtles, and the diamond back terrapin from Massachusetts waters.

For anyone, except the owner, to handle, destroy, or molest any lobster or crab pot or other fishing gear, including any gear swept up on the shore, beaches or flats whether public or private, or to take fish there from.

To sell, barter, or exchange fish or shellfish without a commercial permit.



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