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## Hunting & Fishing

### Saltwater Fishing

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# Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

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Species	Note	Min. Size	Open Periods	Possession Limits
American Eel		6"	All Year	50 fish
Black Sea Bass	See <a href="http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries">www.mass.gov/marinefisheries</a> for current regs.			
Bluefish	None	All Year		10 fish
		22" (5a)	All Year	10 fish
Cod	(5,6)	April 1 – Oct. 31		10 fish
		24" (5b)	Nov. 1 – March 31	2 fish (75 lb boat max)

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Fluke	See <a href="http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries">www.mass.gov/marinefisheries</a> for current regs.		
Halibut	41"	All Year	1 fish
Haddock	18"	All Year	None
Plaice (Dab)	14"	All Year	None
River Herring	(4) N/A	None	No possession
Scup	See <a href="http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries">www.mass.gov/marinefisheries</a> for current regs.		
Shad	(1) None	All Year	6 fish
Smelt	(1) None	June 16 – March 14	50 fish
Striped Bass	(1, 2) 28"	All year	2 fish
Tautog	16"	All year	3 fish
Tuna and Billfish	See note on reverse side and note 1 below		
Weakfish	16"	All year	1 fish
White Perch	8"	All year	25 fish
Windowpane Flounder	12"	All year	None
Winter Flounder	(3) 12"	(3a) April 24 – May 23	2 fish
		Sept. 25 – Oct. 24	
		(3b) Nov. 1 – Aug. 31	8 fish
Yellowtail flounder	13"	All year	None
Redfish	9"	All year	None
Smooth Dogfish	None	All year	1 as permitted shark plus 1 additional
Sharks (other permitted species)	(7) 54"	All year	1 all species combined
Wolffish	N/A	None	No possession

## Notes:

1. Striped bass are to be taken by hook & line only, all billfish by rod & reel only, shad and smelt by angling only.
2. Mutilation of striped bass in such a way as to interfere with proper and adequate measurement is prima facie evidence of a violation. The discard of dead, legal size striped bass is prohibited. High grading or retention of live bass on a stringer or in a live well is prohibited.
3. Two areas –
  - o regulations apply south and east of Cape Cod Cod, including east facing estuaries of outer Cape Cod.

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## 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 take lobsters, or crabs by trap, without a recreational lobster/crab permit.

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



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