



Atlantic Seasons, Sizes, & Limits



ATLANTIC OCEAN, COASTAL BAYS and TRIBUTARIES				
Species	Minimum Size Limits	Season	Creel Limit	Remarks
American eel	9 inches	January 1–August 31, except open year round for spears and baited traps or pots	Daily—25	
Black Drum	16 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1 Boat limit—6	
Black sea bass	12.5 inches	May 15–Dec 31	Daily—15	
Bluefish	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—10	
Cobia	40 inches	June 1–September 30	Daily—1 Boat limit—3	
Croaker (Hardhead)	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—25	
Dolphinfish (Mahi-Mahi)	None	Open Year Round	Daily—10 Boat limit—60	Only applies to federal waters.
Grouper species	None	Open Year Round	Daily—1	Grouper species— www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm (https://web.archive.org/web/20190425005833/http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm)
Lobster	338–5¼ inches carapace length	CLOSED Feb. 1–March 31	100/person/24 hour period or 500 for a 5-day or longer trip when using gear other than lobster traps	Must be landed whole. Spearing is prohibited. No egg-bearing females.

Red drum (Channel Bass or Puppy Drum)	18-27 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
Scup (Porgy)	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—50	
Sharks	See <u>Highly Migratory Species</u> (https://web.archive.org/web/20190425005833/http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/highly-migratory-species/) Section			
Snapper Species (includes many species, please see list)	Snapper species— www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm (https://web.archive.org/web/20190425005833/http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm) Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20190425005833/http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/)			
Spanish Mackerel*	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—15	
Spotted seatrout	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
Striped Bass	See Atlantic <u>Striped Bass</u> (https://web.archive.org/web/20190425005833/http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/striped-bass/) Section			
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	16.5 inches	Open Year Round	4/person/day	
Tautog	16 inches	CLOSED May 16–June 30	January 1–May 15, 4 fish/person/day July 1–October 31, 2 fish/person/day November 1–December 31, 4 fish/person/day	
Tilefish species	Tilefish species— www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20190425005833/http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/)			
Wahoo	None	Open Year Round	Daily—2	Only applies to federal waters.
Weakfish	13 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
Alewife Herring, American Shad, Atlantic sturgeon, Blueback Herring and shortnose STURGEON	CLOSED			
* Atlantic Coastal Migratory Pelagic Charter/Headboat Permits for Spanish and king mackerel are available through the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Permits Office.				

Summer Flounder Hook Recommendations

Undersized summer flounder must be released and there are two things anglers can do to maximize survivability.

- **Use a size 3/0 or larger hook.** A lot of mortality associated with hooking is caused by the fish swallowing the hook and being lodged in the gills or organs. Larger hooks can help to prevent this from happening.
- **Be ready to release a fish once it is caught.** Having the right tools such as a wet rag, pliers and a measuring board will enable you to return the fish to the water quickly. Which will improve the odds of survival.

« [Saltwater Fishing Regulations](https://web.archive.org/web/20190425005833/http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing-regulations/)

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[Chesapeake Bay Seasons, Sizes & Limits »](https://web.archive.org/web/20190425005833/http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing-regulations/)

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