Fishing Marine Fishing Hunting

 Main
 General Info
 Fishing Licenses & Rules
 Fish Identification
 Great Bay Reserve
 Lobster, Crab & Shellfish

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.

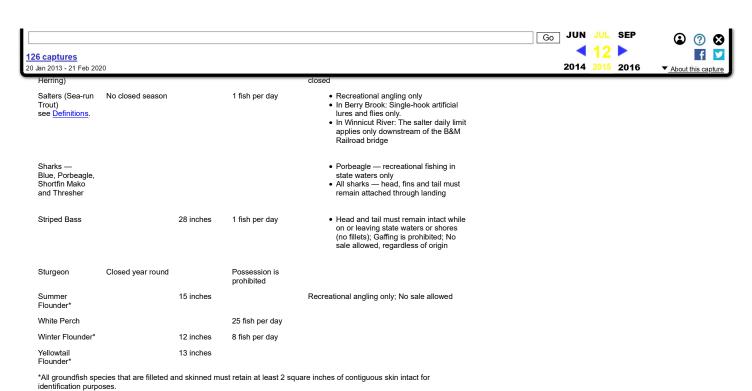
Additional regulations apply in federal waters for most of the below-listed species — contact NOAA Fisheries at (978) 281-9315 or **nero.noaa.gov/sfd/recfishing** directly if you have questions regarding fishing in federal waters.

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 <u>Coastal Harvest Section</u>)
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 Cod Spawning Protection Area; 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 hmspermits.noaa.gov
Bluefish			10 fish per day	
Dogfish, Spiny				Finning prohibited
Haddock*	Sept. 1 – Nov. 30 Mar. 1 – April 30	17 inches	3 fish per day	 Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 13 inches minimum Effective May 1, 2015, size limit is 17 inches.
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		



1 of 2 09/24/20, 16:24





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2 of 2