

DEPARTMENT OF
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Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

Important News

- **The recreational limits for tautog (blackfish) have changed.** The size limit increased to 16 inches and the fishing season is shorter--from October 8 through December 4. The daily possession limit remains the same, 4 fish. This is in effect as of December 30, 2011.
- Starting January 1, 2012, anglers must enroll in the 2012 annual no-fee [recreational marine fishing registry](#) before going saltwater fishing. Registration for 2012 is valid through December 31, 2012.

Laws and regulations are frequently amended by the Legislature or DEC. Please check with the Bureau of Marine Resources to ensure that the fishing limits below are in effect (contact information can be found in the column to the right). Links to the actual text of the Marine Fish Regulations (Part 40) and Lobster and Crab Regulations (Part 44) are in the Important Links column to the right. Additionally, a printable PDF copy of the following regulations can be found in the column to the right.

Effective Date for Regulations: December 30, 2011.

Marine Recreational Fishing Limits

Species	Size Limits (Total Length in Inches)	Daily Possession Limits (Number of Fish)	Open Seasons
Summer flounder (fluke)	20.5	3	May 1 - Sept 30
Winter flounder	12	2	April 1 - May 30
Tautog (blackfish)	16	4	Oct 8 - Dec 4
Bluefish (including "snappers")	No minimum size for first 10 fish 12 TL for the next 5	15 No more than 10 of which shall be less than 12" TL	All year
Weakfish	16	1	All year

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[Recreational Shark
Limits](#)

Important Links

[Marine Recreational
Fishing Limits \(PDF,
36 KB\)](#)[Part 40 - Marine Fish
Regulations \(Includes
Commercial
Regulations\)](#)[Part 44 - Lobster and
Crab Regulations](#)

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Contact for this Page

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▼ About this capture

266 captures

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Pollock	19	No limit	All year
Haddock	18	No limit	All year
Striped bass: marine waters** Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	28	2***	Apr 15 - Dec 15
Striped bass: marine waters** All other anglers	28 - 40 >40	1 1	Apr 15 - Dec 15
Striped bass: Hudson River north of George Washington Bridge	18	1	Mar 16 - Nov 30
Red drum	No minimum size	No limit for fish less than 27" TL. Fish greater than 27" shall not be possessed.	All year
Spanish mackerel	14	15	All year
King mackerel	23	3	All year
Cobia	37	2	All year
Atlantic sturgeon	Moratorium	Moratorium	Moratorium
Black Sea Bass	13	10	June 13 - Oct 1 Nov 1 - Dec 31
Scup (Porgy) Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	11	10 40***	June 8 - Sept 6 Sept 7 - Oct 11***
Scup (Porgy) All other anglers	10.5	10	May 24 - Sept 6
American eel	6	50	All year
Monkfish (goose fish)	17 11 tail length	Any number	All year
American Shad	Possession Prohibited	Possession Prohibited	Possession Prohibited
Hickory Shad	No size limit	5	All year
Yellowtail flounder	13	No limit	All year
Oyster toadfish	10	3	July 16 - May 14
Horseshoe crabs	No size limit	5	All year
Blue Crab+ Hard Shell	4 1/2" 3 1/2" 3"	50	All year

American lobster+ (Recreational permit required)	3 3/8" minimum carapace length 5 1/4" maximum carapace length	6	All year
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*Anglers on board federally permitted party or charter vessels may possess any number of Atlantic cod, consistent with federal rules.

** Marine waters -- South of George Washington Bridge

*** The customer of any party/charter boat who takes more than 10 scup from Sept 7 - Oct 11 or takes two striped bass from Apr 15 - Dec 15 must possess an original dated receipt from the licensed vessel.

+ Lobsters and crabs in spawn (eggs visible thereon) may not be taken or possessed.

++ Peeler or shedder crabs are hard blue crabs which have a fully formed soft shell beneath the hard outer shell and the impending shedding process is evidenced by the white sign along the outer rim of the paddle-like appendages on the crab's fifth pair of legs.

Recreational Fishing Regulations for Sharks

Category	Species	Minimum Size Limit	Daily Possession Limit
Allowed Sharks	Tiger, Blacktip, Bull, Great hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Scalloped hammerhead, Smooth hammerhead, Spinner, Blue, Shortfin mako, Oceanic whitetip, Porbeagle, Common Thresher	54 inches fork length*	One shark per vessel per trip, except that one additional Atlantic Sharpnose and one additional Bonnethead may be taken and possessed per angler per trip.
	Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Finetooth, Blacknose	No size limit	
	Smooth Dogfish, Spiny Dogfish	No size limit	Any number
Prohibited Sharks	Atlantic angel, Galapagos, Basking, Longfin mako, Bigeye sand tiger, Narrowtooth, Bigeye Sixgill, Night, Bigeye thresher, Sand tiger, Bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Smalltail, Dusky, Whale, White+, Silky and Sandbar, Sharpnose sevengill, Bluntnose sixgill.	No possession allowed	No possession allowed

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+ A person may fish for white sharks with rod and reel, provided the person releases such fish immediately with a minimum of injury and that such fish may not be removed from the water.

Other provisions

All landed sharks must have head, tails and fins attached.

No sale allowed.

No finning.

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