VIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Home » Outdoor Activities » Fishing » Saltwater Fishing » Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

➡ Printer-friendly | A-Z Subject Index | ■ Enter search words

Outdoor Activities

Fishing

Saltwater Fishing

Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

Animals, Plants, Aquatic Life

Chemical & Pollution Control

Energy and Climate

Lands and Waters

Education

Permits and Licenses

Public Involvement and News

Regulations and Enforcement

Publications, Forms, Maps

About DEC

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	No more than 10 of which shall be less than 12" TL	All year
Weakfish	16	1	All year

Find on this Page

Search DEC

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

PDF Help

For help with PDFs on this page, please call 631-444-0430.

Contact for this Page

Bureau of Marine Resources Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources 205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1 East Setauket, New York 11733 631-444-0430 Send us an email

This Page Covers



https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html





266 captures 26 May 2007 - 12 Jan 2019

			2010 2012	2013
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	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	

6

All year

https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.h 266 captures 26 May 2007 - 12 Jan 2019	- ntml		_	APR 16 2012	② ② ⊗ f ♥ About this capture
	American lobster+	3 3/8" minimum			

carapace length

51/4" maximum

carapace length

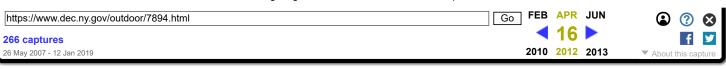
(Recreational

permit required)

- *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	
	Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Finetooth, Blacknose	No size limit	may be taken and possessed per angler per trip.	
	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	



+ 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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