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DEC MAY AUG

16

2010 2011 2012



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



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Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

Important News

- The new no-fee [recreational marine fishing registry](#) is now available for anglers to enroll in before going fishing. Follow the link for more information.
- The 2011 recreational fishing season for summer flounder (fluke) will open May 1, 2011. The new limits are a 20.5-inch minimum size limit and a 3-fish possession limit. The fishing season is from May 1 through September 30.**
- The daily possession limit for weakfish is reduced to 1 (one) fish.

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 Related 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: April 29, 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)	14	4	Oct 1 - Dec 20 Jan 17 - Apr 30
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

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[Recreational Shark Limits](#)

Important Links

[Marine Recreational Fishing Limits \(PDF, 32 Kb\)](#)[Part 40 - Marine Fish Regulations \(Includes Commercial Regulations\)](#)[Part 44 - Lobster and Crab Regulations](#)[Summer Flounder 2009 Season Press Release](#)

PDF Help

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

Contact for this Page

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Atlantic cod*	22	10*	All year
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	12.5	25	May 22 - Oct 11 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 26
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+	4 1/2"	50	All year

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All Other Crabs+	No size limit	50	All year
American lobster+ (Recreational permit required)	3 3/8" minimum carapace length 51/4" maximum carapace length	6	All year

*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/charte 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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