



Recreational Finfish Regulations

Updated as of January 7, 2015

Species	Season	Size Limit	Possession Limit
American Eel (1)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	9 in	25 fish
Billfish (2)			
Black Sea Bass (3)			
Private	TBD	TBD	TBD
For-Hire	TBD	TBD	TBD
Bluefish	Jan 1 - Dec 31	No Limit	10 fish
Cod (4)(5)(8) (North of Cape Cod)			
Private and For-Hire	Apr 16 - Oct 31	19 in	9 fish
For-Hire	Nov 01 - Apr 15	19 in	Closed
Private	Nov 01 - Apr 15	19 in	2 fish/person (75 lb/boat)
Cod (4)(5) (South of Cape Cod)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	22 in	10 fish
Dab (Plaice) (4)(5)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	14 in	No Limit
Fluke	TBD	TBD	TBD
Gray Sole (Witch) (4)(5)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	14 in	No Limit
Haddock (4)(5)(8) (North of Cape Cod)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	21 in	No Limit
Haddock (4)(5)(8) (South of Cape Cod)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	18 in	No Limit
Halibut (4)(5)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	41 in	1 fish
Monkfish (4)(5)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	No Limit	No Limit
Ocean Pout (4)(5)	Prohibited		
Pollock (4)(5)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	No Limit	No Limit
Redfish (4)(5)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	No Limit	No Limit
River Herring	Prohibited		
Scup			
Private	TBD	TBD	TBD
For-Hire Bonus	TBD	TBD	TBD
For-Hire Regular	TBD	TBD	TBD
Shad			
Merrimack River	Jan 1 - Dec 31	No Limit	3 fish
Connecticut River	Jan 1 - Dec 31	No Limit	3 fish
Other Rivers	Jan 1 - Dec 31	No Limit	Catch and Release Only
Sharks** (excludes spiny dogfish)	Refer to Shark Section. Full regulations at 322 CMR 6.37		
Smelt	Jun 16 - Mar 14	No Limit	50 fish
Spiny Dogfish	Jan 1 - Dec 31	No Limit	No Limit
Striped Bass (6)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	TBD	TBD
Tautog	TBD	TBD	TBD
Tunas (7)	Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries		
Weakfish	Jan 1 - Dec 31	16 in	1 fish
White Perch	Jan 1 - Dec 31	8 in	25 fish
Windowpane (4)(5)	Prohibited		
Winter Flounder (4)(5) (North of	All Year	12 in	8 fish

Cape Cod )			
Winter Flounder (4)(5) (South and East of Cape Cod )	March 1 - Dec 31	12 in	2 fish
Wolffish (4)(5)	Prohibited		
Yellowtail Flounder (4)(5)	Jan 1 - Dec 31	13 in	No Limit

****Rule making is on-going and some regulations are subject to change in 2014.**

Notes:

1) Subject to regulation by DMF and the municipality. Please consult municipal regulations.

2) All billfish species are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the tail fork. These species are managed by NOAA's Highly Migratory Species Office. Please consult NMFS for permitting requirements and regulations.

3) Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.

4) Federal rules apply beyond state waters. Consult NOAA for permitting requirements and regulations.

5) It is unlawful to fish with hook and line gear in the [Winter Cod Conservation Closure](#) from November 15th through January 21. It is unlawful to take cod from the [Spring Cod Conservation Closure](#) from April 16th through July 21st.

6) Striped bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail. The discard of dead legal sized striped bass is unlawful. The practice of high-grading, whereby legal sized striped bass are released in favor of larger fish caught subsequently is unlawful. Accordingly, it is also unlawful to keep a striped bass alive in water by attaching a line or chain to the fish or placing it in a live well or holding car. Striped bass must be kept whole, meaning the head, tail and body remain intact. Only evisceration is allowed. Permitted for-hire vessels may fillet striped bass for their customers.

7) These species are managed by NOAA's Highly Migratory Species Office. Please consult NMFS for permitting requirements and regulations.

8) Cod and haddock rules subject to change in 2014.