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# SALTWATER FISHING

DIGEST

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## MENU



## Recreational Saltwater Fishing – Finfish

**New Hampshire**

Saltwater Fishing

**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.

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](https://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/recfishing) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/recfishing>) directly if you have questions regarding fishing in federal waters.

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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
American Plaice*		14 inches		
American Shad				All shad must be immediately released
Atlantic Cod*	Oct. 1 – July 31	24 inches	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fillets no less than 14 inches</li> </ul>
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 <a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.hmspermits.gov/">hmspermits.gov</a> ( <a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.hmspermits.gov/">https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.hmspermits.gov/</a> )
Bluefish			10 fish per day	
Dogfish, Spiny				Finning prohibited
Haddock*	Mar. 1-April 14	17 inches	15 fish per day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 10 inches minimum</li> </ul>

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Pollock*		17 inches		19 inches, if taken in federal waters
Rainbow Smelt (Saltwater)			4 liquid quarts	Head and tail must remain intact
Redfish*		9 inches		
River Herring (Alewife/ Blueback Herring)	Closed sunrise Wednesday – sunrise Thursday		See Squamscott River in Special River Restrictions, page 19.	See Special River Restrictions and Coastal Harvest Section. Fishing prohibited around fishway closure areas Oyster and Taylor rivers closed
Salters (Sea-run Trout)	No closed season		1 fish per day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational angling only</li> <li>• In <b>Berry Brook</b>: Single-hook artificial lures and flies only.</li> <li>• In <b>Winnicut River</b>: The salter daily limit applies only downstream of the B&amp;M Railroad bridge</li> </ul>
Sharks — Blue, Porbeagle, Shortfin Mako and Thresher				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Porbeagle — recreational fishing in state waters only</li> <li>• All sharks — head, fins and tail must remain attached through landing</li> </ul>
Striped Bass		28 inches	1 fish per day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head and tail must remain intact while on or leaving state waters or shores (no fillets); Gaffing is prohibited; No sale allowed, regardless of origin</li> </ul>
Sturgeon	Closed year round		Possession is prohibited	
Summer Flounder*		15 inches		Recreational angling only; No sale allowed
White Perch			25 fish per day	Sale is prohibited
Winter Flounder*		12 inches	8 fish per day	

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Follow what

Flounder\*

13 inches

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\*All groundfish species that are filleted and skinned must retain at least 2 square inches of contiguous skin intact for identification purposes.

# About This Publication

**This publication is a summary of fishing regulations. It is not the full laws or rules. It is intended only as a guide to seasons and other necessary marine information.** For more detailed information concerning regulations, consult the New Hampshire Fish and Game Law Book, *Fish and Game Administrative Rules*, or contact your local Conservation Officer. Fish and Game laws and rules may be viewed at any Fish and Game office; Legislative Services, Administrative Rules, in the State House Annex, 25 Capitol St., Room 219, Concord, NH 03301; and at [fishnh.com](https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.fishnh.com/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.fishnh.com/>) or [nh.gov](https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.nh.gov/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.nh.gov/>). A compendium of Fish and Game laws may also be purchased at Department headquarters in Concord for \$41.

[fishnh.com](https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.fishnh.com/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.fishnh.com/>)

« Recreational Licenses (<https://web.archive.org/web/20170603182010/http://www.eregulations.com/newhampshire/fishing/saltwater/recreational-licenses/>)

Cod Spawning Protection Area »

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