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2015 2016 2017

About this capture

Fishing

Marine Fishing

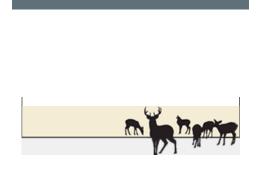
Hunting

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## **Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations**

## Regulations listed below are subject to change during the 2016 season.

Species	Note	Min. Size		Open Periods	Possession Limits			
American Eel	(1)	9"		All Year	25 fish			
American Shad	(2)	None		All Year	Closed with exceptions			
Black Sea Bass	(3,7)	15"		May 21 – August 31	5 fish			
Blue Marlin		Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.						
Bluefish		None		All Year	10 fish			
Cod (North of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	Private	19"	January 1 – December 31	1 fish			
		For Hire	24"	August 1 – September 30	1 fish			
Cod (South & East of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	22"		All Year	10 fish			
Dab (Plaice)	(4,5)	14"		All Year	None			
Fluke		16"		May 22 – September 23	5 fish			
Gray Sole (Witch)	(4,5)	14"		All Year	None			
Haddock (North of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	17"		January 1 – April 30	3 fish			
		17"		May 1 – December 31	15 fish			
Halibut	(4,5)	41"		All Year	1 fish			
Monkfish	(4,5)	None		All Year	None			
Pollock	(4,5)	None		All Year	None			
Redfish	(4,5)	None		All Year	None			
River Herring Harvest, possession, sale and use are prohibited.								
Sailfish		Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.						
		Private	10"	May 1 – December 31	30 fish or 150 fish/vessel if 5 or more anglers are aboard			
Scup	(7)	For-Hire Bonus	10"	May 1 – June 30	45 fish			
		For-Hire Regular	10"	July 1 – December 31	30 fish			
Sharks (excludes spiny dogfish)		See <u>www.mass.gov/marinefisheries</u> for current regulations.						
Smelt		None		June 16 – March 14	50 fish			
Spiny Dogfish		None		All year	None			
Striped Bass	(6)	28"		All year	1 fish			
Tautog		16"		All year	3 fish			



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White Perch	8"	All year	25 fish						

White Perch		8"	All year	25 fish
Windowpane Flounder	(4,5)	Prohibited		
Winter Flounder (North of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	12"	All year	8 fish
Winter Flounder (South & East of Cape Cod)	(4,5)	12"	March 1 – December 31	2 fish
Wolffish	(4,5)	Prohibited		
Yellowtail Flounder	(4,5)	13"	All year	None

## **Prohibitions**

**Snagging, snatching of anadromous fish:** including shad, smelt, white perch, striped bass, trout, and salmon, but excluding alewives or blueback herring.

The taking of striped bass by any means other than hook and line.

To "high-grade" striped bass, i.e. the discard of dead, legal size striped bass.

To retain live striped bass in the water by attaching to a stringer or placing in a live well or holding car.

The taking of billfish using gear other than a rod and reel.

The taking of Atlantic salmon, sturgeon, all marine mammals, all sea turtles, and the diamond back terrapin from Massachusetts waters.

For anyone, except the owner, to handle, destroy, or molest any lobster or crab pot or other fishing gear, including any gear swept up on the shore, beaches or flats whether public or private, or to take fish there from.

To sell, barter, or exchange fish or shellfish without a commercial permit.

## Notes:

- Subject to regulation by the Division and the municipality. Please consult municipal regulations.
- 2) American Shad is a catch and release fishery, except for on the Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers where anglers may retain up to 3 fish per day.
- 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 Fisheries for permitting requirements and regulations.
- 5) It is unlawful to fish with hook and line gear in the Winter Cod Conservation Closure from November 15 through January 31. It is unlawful to take cod from the Spring Cod Conservation Closure from April 16 through July 21.
- 6) 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) Black sea bass and scup may be filleted but not skinned while at-sea. No more than two fillets per allowed fish may be possessed.



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