

Fishing

Hunting

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Recreational Saltwater Fishing – Finfish

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. See [Recreational Licenses](#) for details.

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 directly if you have questions regarding fishing in federal waters.

2016 New Hampshire Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

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 (see Coastal Harvest)
American Plaice*		14 inches		
American Shad				All shad must be immediately released
Atlantic Cod*	Oct. 1 – July 31	24 inches	1	See Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area map
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 hmspermits.gov
Bluefish			10 fish per day	
Dogfish, Spiny				Finning prohibited
Haddock*	Mar. 1-April 14	17 inches	15 fish per day	• Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 10 inches minimum
Monkfish		17 inches		
Pollock*				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 .	See Special River Restrictions and Coastal Harvest Section. Fishing prohibited around fishway closure areas Oyster and Taylor rivers closed
Salters (Sea-run Trout) see Definitions	No closed season		1 fish per day	• Recreational angling only • In Berry Brook: Single-hook artificial lures and flies only.



126 captures

20 Jan 2013 - 21 Feb 2020

Go

MAY

JUN

JUL

03

2015

2016

2017

About this capture

Sharks — Blue, Porbeagle, Shortfin Mako and Thresher			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Porbeagle — recreational fishing in state waters only• All sharks — head, fins and tail must remain attached through landing
Striped Bass	28 inches	1 fish per day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
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	
Yellowtail Flounder*	13 inches		

*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 (see [Contact Information](#) for phone numbers); Legislative Services, Administrative Rules, in the State House Annex, 25 Capitol St., Room 219, Concord, NH 03301; and at [fishnh.com](#) or [nh.gov](#). A compendium of Fish and Game laws may also be purchased at Department headquarters in Concord for \$41.



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