



State Size & Possession Limits



New Jersey
Saltwater Fishing

2020 New Jersey Recreational Fishing Seasons, Minimum Size and Possession Limits

Regulations remain in effect until changed. For the most current regulations, go to [NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) (<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com>) "only" information line at (609) 292-2083. Regulations in red are new this year. See [Finfish Regulations](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/) (<http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/>) for how to measure fish. Note: No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed below may be filleted (passengers may apply for a permit to fillet these species. See also *Summer Flounder*, [Finfish Regulations](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/) (<http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/>).

Species	Open Season
American Eel ^a	No Closed Season
Black Drum	No Closed Season
Black Sea Bass (Min. length excludes tail filament; see Finfish Regulations (http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/ .)	May 15 – June 22
	July 1 – Aug. 31
	Oct. 8 – Oct. 31
	Nov. 1 – Dec. 31

Bluefish (Snapper)	No Closed Season
Cobia	June 1–Sept. 30
Cod	No Closed Season
Haddock	No Closed Season
Pollock	No Closed Season
Red Drum	No Closed Season
River Herring	No Open Season
Scup (Porgy)	No Closed Season
Shad	
Delaware River & tributaries	No Closed Season
All Other Marine Waters	No Closed Season
Shark^{b, c, †}	
Aggregate large coastal group [†]	Jan. 1–May 14 and July 16–Dec. 31
Hammerhead group [†]	
Non-blacknose small coastal group [†] Blacknose group [†]	No Closed Season

Pelagic group [†]	No Closed Season
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season
Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass	
Delaware River & tributaries** (Calhoun St. bridge to Salem River & tributaries)	March 1–March 31 and June 1–Dec. 31
Delaware River & tributaries** (upstream of Calhoun St. bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31
Atlantic Ocean (0–3 nautical miles from shore)	No Closed Season
Rivers, bay and estuaries	March 1–Dec. 31
3–200 nautical miles (federal waters)	Prohibited
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	
Delaware Bay and tributaries ^e	May 22–Sept. 19
Island Beach State Park, shore fishing	May 22–Sept. 19
All water except as above	May 22–Sept. 19
Tautog (Blackfish)	Jan. 1–Feb. 28
	April 1–April 30
	Aug. 1–Nov. 15
	Nov. 16–Dec. 31
Weakfish	No Closed Season
Winter Flounder	March 1–Dec. 31
Blue Crab	

peeler or shedder	No Closed Season ^d
soft	No Closed Season ^d
hard	No Closed Season ^d
Lobster (carapace length)	See closed seasons on Mollusks & Crustaceans (http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/mollusks-crustaceans/)
Hard Clam (license required)	No Closed Season [†]

a Except 50 fish harvest/possession limit for party/charter boat employees.

b Not including dogfish; see description on [Finfish Regulations](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/) (<http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/>)

c See [Finfish Regulations](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/) (<http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/>) for a list of

d Unless using non-collapsible, Chesapeake-style crab pots, trot lines or crab dredges. See [Mollusks & Crustaceans](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/mollusks-crustaceans/) (<http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/mollusks-crustaceans/>).

e Applies to Delaware Bay and tributaries, west of COLREGS line delineating Delaware Bay from Atlantic Ocean but d May Ferry Terminal. Transport of summer flounder caught in Delaware Bay, greater than or equal to 17 in. but less than 24 in. to George Redding Br. (Rt. 47) located at entrance of Wildwood provided all fishing gear aboard the vessel is any species.

f See [Finfish Regulations](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/) (<http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/>) under *Blue*

** See *Striped Bass Closed Seasons* ([Finfish Regulations](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/) (<http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/finfish-regulations/>) circle hook requirements.

† See [Federal Size & Possession Limits](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/federal-size-possession-limits/) (<http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/federal-size-possession-limits/>)

‡ Non-resident license valid only June – Sept. See water classification chart information at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/bmw/nssphome.html#charts>.



<< Mollusks & Crustaceans

[\(http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/mollusks-crustaceans/\)](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/mollusks-crustaceans/)

Federal Size & Possession Limits >>

[\(http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/federal-size-possession-limits/\)](http://www.eregulations.com/newjersey/fishing/saltwater/federal-size-possession-limits/)

