



# History of Connecticut Marine Recreational Fisheries Regulations for Selected Species (rev. Apr/2014)

## Striped Bass

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
1935	16 in. (fork length)	None.	Year round.	None.	Spearing prohibited.
1953	16 in. (fork length)	None.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing prohibited.
Jan 1982	16 in. (fork length)	4 fish between 16 and 24in. No limit >24in.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing prohibited.
Aug 1984	24 in. (fork length)	None.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing prohibited.
Aug 1985	26 in. (fork length)	None.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing prohibited.
Jul 1, 1986- Striped bass fishery closed in all state waters (Moratorium)					
1987	33 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Apr 1, 1989	34 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Jul 1, 1989	36 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Jan 1, 1990	38 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Sep 1990	36 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Apr 22, 1994	34 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
1995	28 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler.	Apr 1-Dec 14	Dec 15-Mar 31 in all state waters.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Jul 29, 1996	28 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
May 10, 2000	24-30 in. and ≥ 40 in (total length)  Party/Charter Only-29½ in. (total length)	1 fish/angler per length group.  2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Feb 27, 2001	24-32 in. and ≥ 41 in (total length)  Party/Charter Only-28 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler per length group.  2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
May 15, 2003	28 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.

**Striped bass (Con't.)**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Mar 14, 2012	28 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
	22 in. up to but not including 28 in. (total length)	2 bonus (extra) fish/angler.	May 1-Jun 30 in all state waters.	Jul 1-Apr 30 in all state waters.	Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program. Angler must fill out voucher upon harvest. No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
Apr 2014-Current	28 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler.	Year round.	None.	No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.
	22 in. up to but not including 28 in. (total length)	1 bonus (extra) fish/angler.	May 1-Dec 31 in all state waters.	Jul 1-Apr 30 in all state waters.	Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program. Angler must fill out voucher upon harvest. No sale; spearing and gaffing prohibited; fish must be landed intact.

**Bluefish**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1991	None	10 fish/angler for fish > 12 in (total length)	Year round.	None.	None.
Apr 22, 1994-Current	None	10 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.

**Summer Flounder (Fluke)**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1982	14 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Apr 22, 1994	14 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	May 15-Sep 30.	Oct 1-May 14 in all state waters	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Jul 29, 1996	14 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 24, 1997	14½ in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 5, 1998	15 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Mar 17, 1999	15 in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	May 29-Sep 11.	Sep 12-May 28 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 10, 2000	15½ in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	May 10-Oct 2.	Oct 3-May 9 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 17, 2001	17 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
May 27, 2005	17 ½ in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Apr 30-Dec 31.	Jan 1-Apr 29 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 30, 2006	18 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Apr 30-Dec 31.	Jan 1-April 29 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 2, 2007	18 in. (total length)	5 fish/angler	Apr 30-Sep 5.	Sep 6-Apr 29 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 5, 2008	19 ½ in. (total length)	5 fish/angler	May 24-Sep 1.	Sep 2-May 25 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).

**Summer flounder (Fluke) Con't.**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
May 1, 2009	19 ½ in. (total length)	3 fish/angler	Jun 15-Aug 19.	Aug 20-Jun 14 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 1, 2010	19 ½ in. (total length)	3 fish/angler	May 15-Aug 25.	Aug 26-May 14 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
Apr 5, 2011	18 ½ in. (total length)	3 fish/angler	May 15-Sep 5.	Sep 6-May 14 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
	17 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler			Designated Shore Based Fishing Sites only.
Mar 14, 2012	18 in. (total length)	5 fish/angler	May 15-Oct 31.	Nov 1-May 14 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
	16 in. (total length)	5 fish/angler			Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program Designated Fishing Sites only.
Mar 21, 2013	17½ in. (total length)	5 fish/angler	May 15-Oct 31.	Nov 1-May 14 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
	16 in. (total length)	5 fish/angler			Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program Designated Fishing Sites only.
Apr 2014-Current	18 in. (total length)	5 fish/angler	May 17-Sep 21.	Sep 22-May 16 in all state waters.	On the water fillets must meet minimum length or be accompanied by legal sized rack (carcass).
	16 in. (total length)	5 fish/angler			Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program Designated Fishing Sites only.

**Winter Flounder**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1982	8 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Jan 1, 1985	10 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Aug 19, 1986	10 in. (total length)	None.	Year round except for Niantic River.	Niantic River closed Dec 1-Mar 31	None.
Apr 22, 1994	11 in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	Apr 15-Feb 28.	Mar 1-Apr 14 in all state waters.	None.
Oct 1, 1995	12 in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	Apr 15-Feb 28.	Mar 1-Apr 14 in all state waters.	None.
Jan 1, 1996	12 in. (total length)	8 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
Aug 1, 2005	12 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	Apr 1-May 30.	Jun 1-Mar 31 in all state waters.	None.

**Winter Flounder Con't.**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Nov 1, 2010	12 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler	Apr 1- May 30.	Jun 1- Mar 31 in all state waters.	None.
Apr 2014- Current	12 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler	Apr 1- Dec 31.	Jan 1- Mar 31 in all state waters.	None.

**Black Sea Bass**

Effective Date	Minimum Size (Excluding tendril or long filament on tail)	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Apr 24, 1997	9 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
May 5, 1998	10 in. (total length)	20 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
May 17, 2001	11 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	May 10- Feb 28.	Mar 1-May 9 in all state waters.	None.
Jun 19, 2002	11½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
May 15, 2003	12 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jan 1-Sep 1 and Sep 16- Nov 30.	Sep 2-Sep 15 and Dec 1-Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
Aug 5, 2004	12 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jan 1-Sep 7 and Sep 22- Nov 30.	Sep 8-Sep 21 and Dec 1-Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
May 27, 2005	12 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jan 1- Nov 30.	Dec 1- Dec 31.	None.
Apr 30, 2006	12 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Year Round.	None.	None.
May 1, 2009	12 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Year Round.	None.	None.
Apr 1, 2010	12 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	May 22-Sep 12.	Sep 13-May 21 in all state waters.	None.
Jun 8, 2010	12 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	May 22-Oct 11 and Nov 1- Dec 31.	Jan 1-May 21 and Oct 12-Oct 31 in all state waters.	None.
Apr 5, 2011	13 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jul 1-Oct 1 and Nov 1- Dec 31.	Jan 1-Jun 30 and Oct 2-Oct 31 in all state waters.	None.
Mar 14, 2012	13 in. (total length)	15 fish/angler	Jun 15-Dec 31.	Jan 1-Jun 14 in all state waters.	None.
Mar 21, 2013	13 in. (total length)	3 fish/angler	Jun 15-Aug 31.	Oct 30-Jun 14 in all state waters.	None.
		8 fish/angler	Sep 1-Oct 29.		
Apr, 2014- Current	13 in. (total length)	3 fish/angler	Jun 21-Aug 31.	Jan 1-Jun 20 in all state waters.	None.
		8 fish/angler	Sep1-Dec 31.		

**Scup (Porgy)**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1982	7 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Jan 1, 1985	8 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
May 10, 2000	8 in. (total length)	50 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
May 10, 2001	9 in. (total length)	25 fish/angler	Jun 3- Oct 23.	Oct 24- Jun 2 in all state waters.	None.
Jun 19, 2002	10 in. (total length)	50 fish/angler	Jul 13- Sep 25.	Sep 26-Jul 12 in all state waters.	None.
May 15, 2003	10 in. (total length)	50 fish/angler	May 24- Oct 30.	Oct 31- May 23 in all state waters.	None.
May 24, 2004	10 ½ in. (total length)	20 fish/angler	Jul 23- Oct 12 and Nov 1- Dec 31.	Jan 1-Jul 22 and Oct 13- Oct 31 in all state waters.	None.
May 27, 2005	10 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler  Party/charter boats <i>only</i> – 60 fish/angler	Jul 1-8/31 Mode 0 9/1-10/31 Mode 4  9/1-10/31 Mode = 3	Nov 1- Jun 30 in all state waters.	None.
Apr 30, 2006	10 ½ in. (total length)	25 fish/angler  Party/charter boats <i>only</i> – 60 fish/angler	Jun 1- Oct 31.  Sep 1- Oct 31.	Nov 1- May 31 in all state waters.	None.
Apr 4, 2008	10 ½ in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	Jun 1- Sep 26.	Sep 27- May 31 in all state waters.	None.
Party/ charter boats	11 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 45 fish/angler	Jun 12- Aug 31.  Sep 1- Oct 15.	Oct 16- Jun 13 in all state waters.	
May 1, 2009	10 ½ in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	May 24- Sep 26.	Sep 27- May 23 in all state waters.	None.
Party/ charter boats	11 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 45 fish/angler	Jun 12- Aug 31.  Sep 1- Oct 15.	Oct 16- Jun 11 in all state waters.	

Apr 1, 2010	10 ½ in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	May 24-Sep 26.	Sep 27-May 23 in all state waters.	None.
Party/ charter boats	11 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 40 fish/angler	Jun 8-Sep 6.  Sep 7-Oct 11.	Oct 12-Jun 7 in all state waters.	

#### Scup (Porgy) Con't.

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Sep 23, 2011	10 ½ in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	May 24-Dec 31.	Jan 1-May 23 in all state waters.	None.
Party/ charter boats	11 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 40 fish/angler	Jun 8-Sep 6 and Oct 12 – Dec 31.  Sep 7-Oct 11.	Jan 1 - Jun 7 in all state waters.	
Mar 14, 2012	10 ½ in. (total length)	20 fish/angler Mode 4^	May 1-Dec 31.		None.
Party/ charter boats	11 in. (total length)	20 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 40 fish/angler Mode 3^	May 1-Aug 31 and Nov 1 – Dec 31.  Sep 1-Oct 31.	Jan 1-Apr 30 in all state waters.	None.
Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program	9 in. (total length)	20 fish/angler Mode 1^	May 1-Dec 31.		Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program Designated Fishing Sites only.
Apr, 2013-Current	10 ½ in. (total length)	20 fish/angler	May 1-Dec 31.		None.
Party/ charter boats	11 in. (total length)	20 fish/angler  Party/charter boats – 45 fish/angler	May 1-Aug 31 and Nov 1 – Dec 31.  Sep 1-Oct 31.	Jan 1-Apr 30 in all state waters.	None.
Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program	9 in. (total length)	20 fish/angler	May 1-Dec 31.		Enhanced Opportunity Shore Angler Program Designated Fishing Sites only.

#### Tautog (Blackfish)

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Sep 19,	12 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.

1987	length)				
May 19, 1995	14 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Jul 29, 1996	14 in. (total length)	4 fish/angler	Jun 15-Apr 30.	May 1-Jun 14 in all state waters.	None.
May 15, 2003	14 in. (total length)	4 fish/angler	Jan 1-Apr 30 and Jun 15-Nov 23.	May 1-Jun 14 and Nov 24-Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.

#### Tautog (Blackfish) Con't.

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Feb 27, 2004	14 in. (total length)	4 fish/angler	Jan 1-Apr 30, Jun 15-Sep 7 and Sep 22 – Dec 13.	May 1-Jun 14, Sep 8 – Sep 21 and Dec 14-Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
Jan 4, 2008	14 in. (total length)	4 fish/angler	Jan 1-Apr 30 and Oct 1-Dec 6.	May 1-Jun 30, Sep 1-Sep 30, and Dec 7-Dec 31 in all state waters.	None.
		2 fish/angler	Jul 1-Aug 31.		
Jan 31, 2012	Not applicable.	Possession prohibited	Season Closed	Feb 1-Apr 30 in all state waters.	None.
Mar 14, 2012-Current	16 in. (total length)	2 fish/angler	Apr 1-Apr 30 and Jul 1-Aug 31.	May 1-Jun 30, Sep 1-Oct 9, and Dec 7-Mar 31 in all state waters.	None.
		4 fish/angler	Oct 10-Dec 6.		

#### Weakfish

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Jan 1, 1995	16 in. (total length)	None.	Year round.	None.	None.
Apr 1, 2003	16 in. (total length)	10 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
Oct 29, 2007	16 in. (total length)	6 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.
Apr 1, 2010-Current	16 in. (total length)	1 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.

#### American Shad

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Mar 21, 2013-Current	None.	6 fish/angler, or in aggregate with Hickory Shad.	Year round.	See Other Restrictions.	Only from the Connecticut River system, the southern boundary from the line extending between Griswold Pt. in Old Lyme and the outer light on the Old Saybrook breakwater.

**Hickory Shad**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Mar 17, 1999-Current	None.	6 fish/angler, or in aggregate with American shad.	Year round.	None.	None.

**White Perch**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Apr 1, 2003-Current	7 in. (total length)	30fish/angler.	Year round.	See Other Restrictions.	Only for Long Island Sound and Tidal Rivers and Streams.

**Atlantic Menhaden**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Mar 21, 2013-Current	None.	50 fish or 5 gallons, which ever the greater amount.	Year round.	None.	None.

**American Eel**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
May 10, 2000-Current	6 in. (total length)	50 fish/angler	Year round.	None.	None.

**Sandbar Shark (Brown Shark)**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Feb 2, 2010	Not applicable.	Prohibited to possess or land.	None.	Year round in all state waters.	None.

**Smooth Dogfish**

Effective Date	Minimum Size	Daily Possession Limit	Fishing Season	Closed Season/Area	Other Restrictions
Feb 2, 2010	Not applicable.	Prohibited to possess or land.	None.	Year round in all state waters.	None.
Apr 27, 2012-Current	None.	None.	Year round.	None.	None.

**Gear Restrictions**

1935-Current	Striped bass may be taken by hook and line method only (spearing is prohibited).
Apr 22, 1994-Current	Spearing is allowed as a recreational activity only and must abide all recreational fishing regulations (with the exception of striped bass where spearing is prohibited-see above).