

restrained by possession limits and seasonal closures, and commercial plans will be developed by each state. The size limit will be phased-in over two years.

Table 40. 1998 Commercial Tautog Regulations

STATE	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS	SEASONS	QUOTA	GEAR RESTRICTIONS
Massachusetts	16"	40	some gears		Yes
Rhode Island	16"	20	some gears	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	14"	a	July 1 – March 31; April 1 - June 30		
New York	14"	b	some gears		Yes
New Jersey	14"			Yes	Yes
Delaware	14"/15"	See recreational	See Recreational		
Maryland	14"	5			
Virginia	14"		January 1- April 30; September 1- December 31		Yes

Table 41. 1998 Recreational Tautog Regulations

STATE	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMITS	SEASONS
Massachusetts	16"	6	-
Rhode Island	16"	4 ²	See note 2
Connecticut	14"	4	January 1-April 30, June 15-December 31
New York	14"	c	-
New Jersey	14"	d	d
Delaware	14"	10 ¹	July 1 - March 31
	15"	3	April 1 - June 30
Maryland	14"	5	-
Virginia	14"	10	January 1- April 30 July 1 – December 31

- a The trawl fishery has a possession limit of 75 fish, the commercial hook, fish pot, trap net, fyke net, and gill net fisheries the possession limit is 25 fish, and in the lobster pot fishery the possession limit is 10 fish. Holders of Connecticut Marine Pound Net Registration may possess up to twelve fish year round except that during the May 1 through June 14 closed season all female tautog must be released without avoidable injury.
- b New York has a 25 fish vessel trip limit for commercially caught tautog, except only 10 per vessel are allowed when lobster pot gear and more than six lobsters are in possession.