

Finfish Regulations

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* This table is intended as a general summary of MA recreational fishing regulations. Please refer to [322 CMR](#) for the complete regulation details.

Recreational Finfish Regulations as of April 17, 2009			
Species	Season	Size Limit	Possession Limit
American Eel (1)	All Year	6 in	50 fish
Black Sea Bass (2)	All Year	12.5 in	20 fish
Blue Marlin (6)	All Year	86 in	1 fish
Bluefish	All Year	No Limit	10 fish
Cod (North of Cape Cod) Spring Cod Conservation Zone Winter Cod Conservation Zone All Other Areas All Other Areas	May 01 - Jun 30 Dec 01 - Jan 31 Apr 01 - Oct 31 Nov 01 - Mar 31	24 in 24 in	Closed Closed 10 fish 2 fish / person (75 lb / boat)
Cod (South & East of Cape Cod)	All Year	22 in	10 fish
Dab (Plaice)	All Year	14 in	No Limit
Dogfish	All Year	No Limit	No Limit
Fluke	July 1 - Aug 13	18.5 in	5 fish
Gray Sole (Witch)	All Year	14 in	No Limit
Haddock (7)	All Year	18 in	No Limit
Halibut	All Year	36 in	1 fish
Monkfish	All Year	17 in	No Limit
Pollock	All Year	No Limit	No Limit
Redfish	All Year	9 in	No Limit
River Herring (5)	<i>Harvest, possession, sale and use are prohibited</i>		
Sailfish (6)	All Year	57 in	1 fish
Scup (3)	May 24 - Sep 26	10.5 in	10 fish
Shad	All Year	No Limit	6 fish
Sharks	<i>Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries</i>		
Smelt	Jun 16 - Mar 14	No Limit	No Limit
Striped Bass (4)	All Year	28 in	2 fish
Tautog	All Year	16 in	3 fish
Tunas	<i>Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries</i>		
Weakfish	All Year	16 in	6 fish
White Marlin (6)	All Year	62 in	1 fish
White Perch	All Year	8 in	25 fish
Windowpane	All Year	12 in	No Limit
Winter Flounder North of Cape Cod	All Year	12 in	8 fish
Winter Flounder South & East of Cape Cod	Apr 25 - May 24	12 in	4 fish
	Sep 26 - Oct 25	12 in	4 fish
Yellowtail Flounder	All Year	13 in	No Limit
Notes: 1) Subject to regulation by the Division and local community. Consult local regulations 2) 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			

- 3) Maximum 50 scup per private vessel. Party/charter vessel patrons: 11" size limit, 45 fish May 15 - Jun 28, 10 fish Jun 29 - Sep 17.
- 4) Bass must be kept whole, with head, tail and body intact - no mutilation permitted (other than evisceration). The discard of dead, legal size striped bass is prohibited. To prohibit the practice of high-grading, recreational fishermen may not retain legal-sized striped bass and release said fish in favor of another larger legal-sized striped bass captured subsequently. It shall be unlawful to keep striped bass alive in the water by attaching a line or chain to the fish or placing the fish in a live well or holding car. Striped bass are measured from the tip of the snout or jaw (mouth closed) to the farthest extremity of the tail. Note: Permitted party/charter vessel operators may fillet striped bass for their customers. See 322 CMR 6.07 (4)(g) for details.
- 5) It is unlawful for any person to harvest, possess or sell river herring in the Commonwealth or in the waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. These measures will expire on January 1, 2012.
- 6) Billfish are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the tail fork
- 7) Federal rules apply beyond state waters. consult [NOAA Fisheries](#).