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Updated August, 2003

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2003 SALTWATER ANGLING REGULATIONS

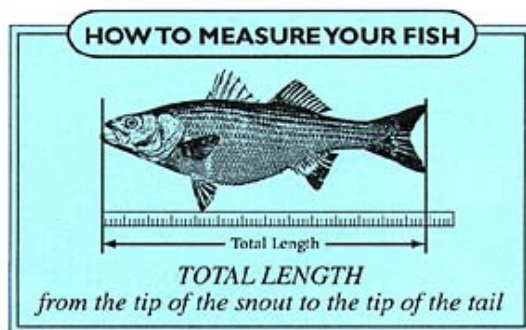
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You don't need a license to go saltwater fishing in Maine but you do need to comply with the restrictions. These Maine saltwater recreational fishing regulations are current as of January 1, 2003. However they are subject to change. Please contact the Department of Marine Resources at 207-633-9500 with questions.

All minimum lengths are total length, not fork length. For more on species identification check the "[Know Your Catch](#)" guide to 35 saltwater species. Here are the size and catch limits for saltwater fish as well as:

- [Striped Bass regulations](#)
- [Atlantic Halibut regulations](#)

Also in Saltwater Angling:
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ATLANTIC COD: *Gadus morhua*

- **New:** The state and federal minimum size for cod is 23 inches.



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For example, an angler could have 10 cod or 10 haddock or 5 cod and 5 haddock, but **never more than 10 fish total**.

- From December 1 through March 31 the daily bag limit is 5 cod per person per day.
- The sale of fish by recreational anglers is prohibited.
- Recreational anglers will be limited to **two hooks per line** and **one line per angler** when fishing for groundfish.

HADDOCK: *Melanogrammus aeglefinus*

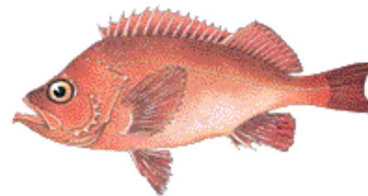

- **New:** The state and federal minimum size for haddock is 21 inches .
- Anglers (that is those fishing from the shore, private boats, and party/charter boats) will be limited to a possession of not more than 10 fish (cod and haddock combined) per person per day from April 1 through November 30. For example, an angler could have 10 cod or 10 haddock or 5 cod and 5 haddock, but **never more than 10 fish total**.
- The sale of fish by recreational anglers is prohibited.
- Recreational anglers will be limited to **two hooks per line** and **one line per angler** when fishing for groundfish.

POLLOCK: *Pollachius virens*


There is a minimum size of 19 inches. Exception: A creel limit of 6 pollock per person per day that are under 19" total length is allowed for recreational fishermen in Maine territorial seas.

REDFISH: *Sebastes fasciatus*

The minimum size is 9 inches. No bag limits.


WINTER FLOUNDER: *Pleuronectes americanus*

The minimum size is 12 inches. No bag limits.


BLUEFISH: *Pomatomus saltatrix*

There is no minimum size. The daily bag limit is 3 fish per angler per day.


MACKEREL: *Scomber scombrus*

No size or bag limits.


SHAD: *Alosa sapidissima*

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BROWN TROUT: *Salmo trutta*

The minimum size is 14 inches.
There is a two fish per angler per
day bag limit.

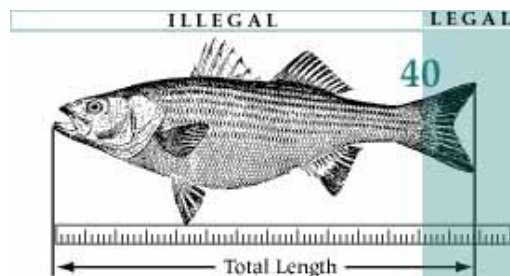
**ATLANTIC SALMON: *Salmo salar***

It is unlawful to angle, take or
possess any Atlantic salmon from
all Maine waters (including coastal waters). Any salmon
incidentally caught must be released immediately, alive and
uninjured. **At no time should the Atlantic salmon be removed
from the water.**



2004 MAINE STRIPED BASS REGULATIONS

No changes from the 2003 season



Maine's striped bass regulations cover all Maine coastal waters up
to the head of tide in all rivers. In addition, there are special
regulations in effect from December 1 through June 30 in the
Kennebec, Sheepscot and Androscoggin Rivers and all related
tributaries (see below).

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

OPEN SEASON January 1 through December 31, inclusive
(except the Kennebec watershed, see below).

BAG & SIZE LIMITS A person may take and possess 1 fish per
day. The fish may be between 20 and 26 inches total length,
inclusive, OR 40 inches or greater in total length.

DISPOSITION Personal Use Only, sale is prohibited. Fish must
remain whole and intact while fishing.

GENERAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS Hook and line only, no gaffing

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(including the Sheepscot and Androscoggin Rivers and all related bays and tributaries)

OPEN SEASON July 1 through November 30, inclusive.

CATCH & RELEASE SEASON WITH SPECIAL GEAR

RESTRICTIONS From May 1 through June 30, inclusive. Fishing in this area is restricted to single hooked (may be a single treble hook) artificial lures only and use of or possession of marine bait, dead or alive, is prohibited.

OPEN SEASON July 1 through November 30, inclusive.

CLOSED SEASON Striped bass fishing is prohibited from December 1 through April 30, inclusive.

The Kennebec watershed is defined as all coastal waters inside and upstream of a line drawn from the outer extremity of **Cape Small, in Phippsburg, to the outer extremity of **Salter**



Island, thence to the outer extremity of **Cape Newagen**, in Southport. This area includes the coastal waters of Popham Beach and the adjoining State Park, Reid State Park, and all riverine waters of the Kennebec, Sheepscot, and Androscoggin Rivers including all bays and tributaries of those rivers to the head of tide. Due to the removal of Edwards dam, the "head of tide" in the Kennebec River is now at the downstream side of the power line located approximately 4,200 feet upstream of the Father Curran Bridge in Augusta for enforcement purposes.

What's in store for striped bass in 2003 and 2004:

The governing body for striped bass on the Atlantic Coast, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), has declared, under the newly implemented Amendment 6 to the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Plan, that current agency regulations may remain status quo for 2003. This means Maine's regulations for 2003 are the same as in 2002; i.e. **1 slot fish or 1 trophy per day per angler.**

However, the ASMFC does require that all agencies submit their current or proposed regulations for 2004 to the ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee (SBTC) for review and determination if these regulations comply with the guidelines set under Amendment 6. After deliberations by the DMR Recreational Advisory Committee it was recommended that we submit our current regulations this spring to the SBTC. If this option is approved by the SBTC it will then be brought forward to public hearings during late summer/early fall for discussion. For more details call 633- 9505.




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East: The open season to fish for Atlantic halibut east of a line from Schoodic Point in territorial waters begins at sunrise May 1st and ends at sunset July 31st.

West: The open season to fish for Atlantic halibut west of Schoodic Point in territorial waters begins at sunrise April 1st and ends at sunset June 30th.

Size limit: All Atlantic Halibut caught in state waters must be 36 inches or greater.

Possession limits: No more than (1) Atlantic halibut may be landed per day from recreational, party or charter vessels. Recreational, party or charter vessels may land no more than 50 Atlantic halibut per season.

Gear Type and Limits: It is illegal to fish for Atlantic halibut by any method other than using size '14 oo' or greater circle hooks. The maximum number of circle hooks per vessel shall be 450 per day.

License requirements: Recreational fishermen are not required to obtain a commercial license and endorsement to fish for Atlantic halibut.

Tagging Project

The Department of Marine Resources is conducting a halibut tagging project. Here's what to do if you catch an Atlantic Halibut with a tag:

1. If you are keeping the fish, return the tag, with the catch location to the Department of Marine Resources.
2. If you are not keeping the fish, record the tag number and catch location and report it to the Department of Marine Resources. **Release the fish as quickly as possible.**



For more information please contact Kohl Kanwit at the Department of Marine Resources
P.O. Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575
Phone: (207) 633-9535

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