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## Recreational Saltwater Fishing—Finfish

**Recreational saltwater fishing in New Hampshire provides diverse opportunities.**

Saltwater anglers can cast a line from boats, bridges, jetties or the beach. Many saltwater fish species are available along the coast and in our rivers and bays. Recreational saltwater fishing in NH now requires a [recreational saltwater license](#).

Below are species that have rules or laws that apply to recreational anglers or spearfishers while fishing in state waters.

Additional regulations apply in federal waters for most of the below-listed species — contact NOAA Fisheries at (978) 281-9315 or [nero.noaa.gov/sfd/recfishing](http://nero.noaa.gov/sfd/recfishing) directly if you have questions regarding fishing in federal waters.

### 2014 New Hampshire Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

SPECIES	Closed Season	Minimum Length	Daily Bag Limit	Special Rules
American Eel	No closed season (except surrounding fishways)	9 inches	25 fish per day	Fishway closures apply October 2 – June 14 (see <a href="#">Coastal Harvest</a> )
American Plaice*		14 inches		
American Shad				All shad must be immediately released
Atlantic Cod*	Nov. 1 – April 15 Apr. 1 – June 30	19 inches	9 fish per day	Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 12 inches minimum <a href="#">Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area</a>
Atlantic Halibut		41 inches	1 fish per trip/vessel	Head and tail intact while on or leaving waters of the state
Atlantic Sea Herring				Federal regulations apply in federal waters
Atlantic Salmon (Sea-run )				All sea-run Atlantic salmon caught on coastal and estuarine waters must be immediately released
Atlantic Wolffish			Possession is prohibited	
Black Sea Bass		13 inches	10 fish per day	Length does not include filament/tail extension
Bluefin Tuna				Federally managed — follow federal regulations (call 1-888-USA-TUNA) or visit <a href="http://hmspermits.gov">hmspermits.gov</a>
Bluefish			10 fish per day	
Dogfish, Spiny				Finning prohibited
Haddock*		21 inches		Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 13 inches minimum
Monkfish		17 inches		
Pollock*				19 inches, if taken in federal waters
Rainbow Smelt (Saltwater)			10 liquid quarts	Head and tail must remain intact
Redfish*		9 inches		
River Herring (Alewife/ Blueback Herring)	Closed sunrise Wednesday – sunrise Thursday		See Squamscott River in <a href="#">Special River Restrictions</a> .	See <a href="#">Special River Restrictions</a> and <a href="#">Coastal Harvest</a> Section. Fishing prohibited around fishway closure areas Oyster and Taylor rivers closed



126 captures

20 Jan 2013 - 21 Feb 2020

inland of, but not including, the Bracket Road bridge to the beginning of the prominent large rock area upstream. Note: Prominent large rock area to Sagamore Rd Bridge is closed year round

- In Winnicut River: The salter daily limit applies only downstream of the B&M Railroad bridge

Sharks —  
Blue,  
Porbeagle,  
Shortfin Mako  
and Thresher

- Porbeagle — recreational fishing in state waters only
- All sharks — head, fins and tail must remain attached through landing

## Striped Bass

28 inches

2 fish per day  
(only 1 fish larger  
than 40 inches)

- Head and tail must remain intact while on or leaving state waters or shores (no fillets); Gaffing is prohibited; No sale allowed, regardless of origin

Sturgeon

Closed year  
round

Possession is prohibited

Summer  
Flounder\*

15 inches

Recreational angling only; No sale allowed

Winter  
Flounder\*

12 inches

8 fish per day

Yellowtail  
Flounder\*

13 inches

\*All groundfish species that are filleted and skinned must retain at least 2 square inches of contiguous skin intact for identification purposes.

## DON'T SPEND ALL YOUR TIME FISHIN' AROUND FOR INFORMATION

Visit N.H. Fish & Game's website: [FishNH.com](http://FishNH.com)

- Buy your N.H. fishing license online; download the Saltwater Fishing Digest; sign up for fishing reports; and much more!



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