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DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION


[Printer-friendly](#) || 
 [A-Z Subject Index](#) || 
 

[Search DEC](#)

[Home](#) » [Outdoor Activities](#) » [Fishing](#) » [Saltwater Fishing](#) » Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

## Outdoor Activities

### Fishing

#### Saltwater Fishing

#### Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

[Animals, Plants, Aquatic Life](#)

[Chemical & Pollution Control](#)

[Energy and Climate](#)

[Lands and Waters](#)

[Education](#)

[Permits and Licenses](#)

[Public Involvement and News](#)

[Regulations and Enforcement](#)

[Publications, Forms, Maps](#)

[About DEC](#)

# Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

## Important News

- The daily possession limit for weakfish is reduced to 1 (one) fish.
- The daily possession limit for Atlantic cod taken by recreational anglers is reduced to 10 fish. Anglers fishing on board federally permitted party or charter boats may possess any number.
- The minimum size limit for haddock is reduced to 18 inches.
- The take and possession of American shad is prohibited effective March 17, 2010 ([American Shad proposed regulations](#)).

Laws and regulations are frequently amended by the Legislature or DEC. Please check with the Bureau of Marine Resources to ensure that the fishing limits below are in effect (contact information can be found in the column to the right). Links to the actual text of the Marine Fish Regulations (Part 40) and Lobster and Crab Regulations (Part 44) are in the Related Links column to the right. Additionally, a printable PDF copy of the following regulations can be found in the column to the right.

### Page Applies To:



### On This Page:

[Recreational Shark Limits](#)

### Related Links:

[Marine Recreational Fishing Limits \(PDF, 32 Kb\)](#)

[Part 40 - Marine Fish Regulations \(Includes Commercial Regulations\)](#)

[Part 44 - Lobster and Crab Regulations](#)

[Summer Flounder 2009 Season Press Release](#)

### PDF Help:

For assistance with [PDFs](#) on this page, please call 631-444-0430.

### Contact for this Page:

Bureau of Marine Resources  
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine

**Effective Date for Regulations: June 23, 2010.**

Resources  
205 North Belle Mead  
Road, Suite 1  
East Setauket, New  
York 11733

### Marine Recreational Fishing Limits

-0430

Species	Size Limits (Total Length in Inches)	Daily Possession Limits (Number of Fish)	Open Seasons
Summer flounder (fluke)	21	2	May 15 - Sept 6
Winter flounder	12	2	April 1 - May 30
Tautog (blackfish)	14	4	Oct 1 - Dec 20 Jan 17 - Apr 30
Bluefish (including "snappers")	No minimum size for first 10 fish 12 TL for the next 5	15 No more than 10 of which shall be less than 12" TL	All year
Weakfish	16 10 filleted 12 dressed	1	All year
Atlantic cod*	22	10*	All year
Pollock	19	No limit	All year
Haddock	18	No limit	All year
Striped bass: marine waters** Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	28	2***	Apr 15 - Dec 15
Striped bass: marine waters** All other anglers	28 - 40 >40	1 1	Apr 15 - Dec 15
Striped bass: Hudson River north of George Washington Bridge	18	1	Mar 16 - Nov 30
Red drum	No minimum size	No limit for fish less than 27" TL. Fish greater	All year

		than 27" shall not be possessed.	
Spanish mackerel	14	15	All year
King mackerel	23	3	All year
Cobia	37	2	All year
Atlantic sturgeon	Moratorium	Moratorium	Moratorium
Black Sea Bass	12.5	25	May 22 - Oct 11 Nov 1 - Dec 31
Scup (Porgy) Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	11	10 40***	June 8 - Sept 6 Sept 7 - Oct 11***
Scup (Porgy) All other anglers	10.5	10	May 24 - Sept 26
American eel	6	50	All year
Monkfish (goose fish)	17 11 tail length	Any number	All year
American Shad	Possession Prohibited	Possession Prohibited	Possession Prohibited
Hickory Shad	No size limit	5	All year
Yellowtail flounder	13	No limit	All year
Oyster toadfish	10	3	July 16 - May 14
Horseshoe crabs	No size limit	5	All year
Blue Crab+ Hard Shell Soft Shell Peeler/Shedder++	4 1/2" 3 1/2" 3"	50	All year
All Other Crabs+	No size limit	50	All year
American lobster+ (Recreational permit required)	3 3/8" minimum carapace length 5 1/4" maximum	6	All year

	carapace length		
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\*Anglers on board federally permitted party or charter vessels may possess any number of Atlantic cod, consistent with federal rules.

\*\* Marine waters -- South of George Washington Bridge

\*\*\* The customer of any party/charter boat who takes more than 10 scup from Sept 7 - Oct 11 or takes two striped bass from Apr 15 - Dec 15 must possess an original dated receipt from the licensed vessel.

+ Lobsters and crabs in spawn (eggs visible thereon) may not be taken or possessed.

++ Peeler or shedder crabs are hard blue crabs which have a fully formed soft shell beneath the hard outer shell and the impending shedding process is evidenced by the white sign along the outer rim of the paddle-like appendages on the crab's fifth pair of legs.

### Recreational Fishing Regulations for Sharks

Category	Species	Minimum Size Limit	Daily Possession Limit
Allowed Sharks	Tiger, Blacktip, Bull, Great hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Scalloped hammerhead, Smooth hammerhead, Spinner, Blue, Shortfin mako, Oceanic whitetip, Porbeagle, Common Thresher	54 inches fork length*	One shark per angler per trip, except that one additional Atlantic Sharpnose and one additional Bonnethead may be taken and possessed per angler per trip.
	Atlantic Sharpnose,	No size limit	

	Bonnethead, Finetooth, Blacknose		
	Smooth Dogfish, Spiny Dogfish	No size limit	Any number
Prohibited Sharks	Atlantic angel, Galapagos, Basking, Longfin mako, Bigeye sand tiger, Narrowtooth, Bigeye Sixgill, Night, Bigeye thresher, Sand tiger, Bignose, Carribean reef, Carribean sharpnose, Smalltail, Dusky, Whale, White+, Silky and Sandbar, Sharpnose sevengill, Bluntnose sixgill.	No possession allowed	No possession allowed

\* Fork length means the straightline measurement of a fish from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. The measurement is not made along the curve of the body.

+ A person may fish for white sharks with rod and reel, provided the person releases such fish immediately with a minimum of injury and that such fish may not be removed from the water.

#### Other provisions

All landed sharks must have head, tails and fins attached.

No sale allowed.

No finning.

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