

Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Regulations listed below are subject to change during the 2012 season.

Species	Note	Min. Size	Open Periods	Possession Limits
American Eel	(1)	6"	All Year	50 fish
Black Sea Bass	(2)	14"	May 11 – June 24 June 25 – Oct. 31	10 fish 20 fish
Bluefish		None	All Year	10 fish
Cod (North of Cape Cod)	(7)			
Spring Cod Conservation Zone			Apr. 16 – July 21	Closed
Winter Cod Conservation Zone			Nov. 15 – Jan. 31	Closed
All Other Areas in State Waters				
Private and For-Hire		19"	Apr. 16 – Oct. 31	9 fish
For-Hire			Nov. 1 – Apr. 15	Closed
Private		24"	Nov. 1 – Apr. 15	2 fish / person (75 lbs. / boat)
Cod (South & East of Cape Cod)		22"	All Year	10 fish
Dab (Plaice)		14"	All Year	None
Fluke		16.5"	May 22 – Sept. 30	5 fish
Gray Sol (Witch)		14"	All Year	None
Haddock	(7)	18"	All Year	None
Halibut	(7)	41"	All Year	1 fish
Monkfish		17"	All Year	None
Pollock		None	All Year	None
Redfish		9"	All Year	None
River Herring	(5)	Harvest, possession, sale and use are prohibited.		
Sailfish	(6)	Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.		
Scup	(3)			
Private		10.5"	May 1 – Dec. 31	20 fish / angler (see note 3)
For-Hire (Regular Season)		11"	May 1 – May 10 June 25 – Dec. 31	20 fish
For-Hire (Bonus)		11"	May 11 – June 24	45 fish
Shad		None	All Year	6 fish
Sharks (excludes spiny dogfish)	Refer to shark section.			
Smelt		None	June 16 – March 14	50 fish
Spiny Dogfish		28"	All year	None
Striped Bass	(4)	28"	All year	2 fish
Tautog		16"	All year	3 fish
Tunas	Federal rules apply. Consult NOAA Fisheries.			



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2011 2012 2015



About this capture

111 captures

7 Jul 2011 - 1 Jan 2019

Windowpane Flounder	12"	All year	None
Winter Flounder (North of Cape Cod)	12"	Nov. 1 – Aug. 31	8 fish
Winter Flounder (South & East of Cape Cod)	12"	Apr. 28 – May 27 Sep. 22 – Oct. 21	2 fish
Yellowtail Flounder	13"	All year	None
Wolffish	Prohibited		

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 100 scup per private vessel with 6 or more passengers.
- 4) Striped 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.
- 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.

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This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Marine Fisheries for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

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