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Recreational Finfish Regulations

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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.

2011 New Hampshire Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

Species	Closed Season	Minimum Length	Daily Bag Limit	Special Rules
American Eel	No closed season (except surrounding fishways)	6 inches	50 fish per day	Fishway Closures apply October 2 – June 14 (see Coastal Harvest Section)

Species	Closed Season	Minimum Length	Daily Bag Limit	Special Rules
American Plaice*		14 inches		
American Shad			2 fish per day	Recreational angling only
Atlantic Cod*	Nov. 1 – April 15	24 inches	10 fish per day	Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 14 inches minimum; Additional federal regulations apply in federal waters
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)		15 inches	2 fish per day	Recreational angling only; Snagging (foul-hooking) not allowed
Atlantic Wolffish			Possession is prohibited	
Bluefin Tuna				Federally managed — follow federal regulations (call 1-888-USA-TUNA) or visit www.hmspermits.gov
Bluefish			10 fish per day	
Dogfish, Spiny				Finning prohibited
Haddock*		18 inches		Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 12 inches minimum; Federal regulations apply beyond state waters
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		Additional federal regulations apply in federal waters
River Herring (Alewife/ Blueback Herring)	Closed every Wednesday		See Squamscott River in Special River Restrictions	Fishing prohibited around fishway closure areas (see Special River Restrictions and Coastal Harvest Section)


Species	Closed Season	Minimum Length	Daily Bag Limit	Special Rules
Salters (Sea-Run Trout)	No closed season (except Berry Brook)		1 fish per day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational angling only In Berry Brook: Single-hook artificial lures and flies only; Open only August 15 – March 1, 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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Porbeagle — recreational fishing in state waters only All sharks — head, fins and tail must remain attached through landing Additional federal regulations apply in federal waters (call 1-978-281-9315)
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; 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*	May 15–24	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](#).

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



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