

**Recreational Finfish Regulations** as of June 18, 2010

Species	Season	Size Limit	Possession Limit
<b>American Eel</b> (1)	All Year	6 in	50 fish
<b>Black Sea Bass</b> (2)	May 22 - Oct 11 Nov 1 - Dec 31	12.5 in 12.5 in	20 fish 20 fish
<b>Blue Marlin</b> (6)	All Year	86 in	1 fish
<b>Bluefish</b>	All Year	No Limit	10 fish
<b>Cod</b> (North of Cape Cod) <a href="#">Spring Cod Conservation Zone</a> <a href="#">Winter Cod Conservation Zone</a> All Other Areas All Other Areas	May 01 - Jun 30 Dec 01 - Jan 31 Apr 01 - Oct 31 Nov 01 - Mar 31	  24 in 24 in	<b>Closed</b> <b>Closed</b> 10 fish 2 fish / person (75 lb / boat)
<b>Cod</b> (South & East of Cape Cod)	All Year	22 in	10 fish
<b>Dab (Plaice)</b>	All Year	14 in	No Limit
<b>Spiny Dogfish</b>	All Year	No Limit	No Limit
<b>Fluke</b>	May 22 - Sept 6	18.5 in	5 fish
<b>Gray Sole (Witch)</b>	All Year	14 in	No Limit
<b>Haddock</b> (7)	All Year	18 in	No Limit
<b>Halibut</b>	All Year	36 in	1 fish
<b>Monkfish</b>	All Year	17 in	No Limit
<b>Pollock</b>	All Year	No Limit	No Limit
<b>Redfish</b>	All Year	9 in	No Limit
<b>River Herring</b> (5)	<i>Harvest, possession, sale and use are prohibited</i>		
<b>Sailfish</b> (6)	All Year	57 in	1 fish
<b>Scup</b> (3)	May 24 - Sep 26	10.5 in	10 fish
<b>Shad</b>	All Year	No Limit	6 fish
<b>Sharks</b> (excludes spiny dogfish)	<a href="#">refer to shark section</a>		
<b>Smelt</b>	Jun 16 - Mar 14	No Limit	50 fish
<b>Spiny Dogfish</b>	All Year	No Limit	No Limit
<b>Striped Bass</b> (4)	All Year	28 in	2 fish
<b>Tautog</b>	All Year	16 in	3 fish
<b>Tunas</b>	<i>Federal rules apply. Consult <a href="#">NOAA Fisheries</a></i>		
<b>Weakfish</b>	All Year	16 in	1 fish
<b>White Marlin</b> (6)	All Year	62 in	1 fish
<b>White Perch</b>	All Year	8 in	25 fish
<b>Windowpane</b>	All Year	12 in	No Limit
<b>Winter Flounder</b> <a href="#">North of Cape Cod</a>	Nov 1 - Aug 31	12 in	8 fish
<b>Winter Flounder</b> <a href="#">South &amp; East of Cape Cod</a>	Apr 24 - May 23 Sep 25 - Oct 24	12 in 12 in	2 fish 2 fish
<b>Yellowtail Flounder</b>	All Year	13 in	No Limit

**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 50 scup per private vessel. Party/charter vessel patrons: 11" size limit, 40 fish May 15 - Jun 18, 10 fish Jun 19 - Sep 17.

- 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. These measures will expire on January 1, 2012.
- 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](#).

[How to measure finfish](#)