

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. See [Recreational Licenses](#) for details.

Below are species that have rules or laws that apply to recreational anglers or spearfishers.



2012 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)
American Plaice*		14 inches		
American Shad			2 fish per day	Recreational angling only
Atlantic Cod*	Nov. 1 – April 15 Apr. 1 – June 30	24 inches	10 fish per day	Head and tail intact, unless fillet is 14 inches minimum; Additional federal regulations apply in federal waters Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area; see map .
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)
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 16 – 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,				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Porbeagle — recreational fishing in state waters only• All sharks — head, fins and tail must remain attached through landing

21 captures

8 May 2012 - 27 Oct 2013

Go

APR MAY JUN

08

2011 2012 2013

About this capture

Mako and Thresher

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
- Additional federal regulations apply in federal waters (call 1-978-281-9315)

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.

 eRegulations

Conservation Partner Advertisements: The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department allows appropriate advertising in its annual regulation guides in print and online, in order to defray or eliminate expenses to the state, and support enhanced communications with New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Constituents. Through a unique partnership with J.F.Griffin Publishing, LLC & eRegulations.com, 'Conservation Partners' have been established that pay for advertising in support of the regulations both in print and online. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department neither endorses products or services listed or claims made; nor accepts any liability arising from the use of products or services listed. Advertisers interested in the Conservation Partners program should contact J.F.Griffin/eRegulations.com directly at 413-884-1001.

This is not the full law. Consult the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

J.F. Griffin Media reaches 9,000,000 sportsmen every year through our print and digital publications. We produce 30 hunting and fishing regulation guides for 15 state agencies. For advertising information, please visit: www.jfgriffin.com