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25

2013 2014 2015



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Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

These regulations are also available as a [printable PDF \(35 KB\)](#).

Please check with the Bureau of Marine Resources (contact information at right) to ensure the fishing limits below are in effect. To read the actual regulations, please follow the links to the right: marine fish (6 NYCRR Part 40) or lobster and crabs (6 NYCRR Part 44).

Most anglers must enroll in the [recreational marine fishing registry](#) when angling for the fish species listed below.

(Note: the registry is not required for harvesting crabs or lobsters. A separate permit is required for lobsters).

Effective Date: April 29, 2014**Marine Recreational Fishing Limits**

Species	Size Limits (Total Length in Inches)*	Daily Possession Limits (Number of Fish)	Open Seasons
Summer flounder (fluke)	18	5	May 17 - Sept 21
Winter flounder	12	2	April 1 - May 30
Tautog (blackfish)	16	4	Oct 5 - Dec 14
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 fileted 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:	28	2***	Apr 15 - Dec 15

Find on this Page

[Recreational Shark Limits](#)

Important Links

[Print copy: Marine Recreational Fishing Limits \(PDF, 35 KB\)](#)[Part 40 - Marine Fish Regulations \(Includes Commercial Regulations\)](#)[Part 44 - Lobster and Crab Regulations](#)

PDF Help

For help with PDFs on this page, please call 631-444-0430.

Contact for this Page

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<i>Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats</i>			
Striped bass: marine waters (south of George Washington Bridge) <i>All other anglers</i>	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 than 27" shall not be possessed.	All year
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	13	8	July 15 - Dec 31
Scup (Porgy)	10	30	May 1 - Dec 31
Scup (Porgy) <i>Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats</i>	10	30 45	May 1 - Dec 31 Sept 1 - Oct 31
American eel	6	50	All year
American eel (New York City: Harlem and East Rivers, Hudson River and tributaries north to Troy Dam)	6 - 14 inches for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited	50 for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited	All year for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited
Monkfish (goose fish)	17 11 tail length	Any number	All year
Anadromous river herring (alewife and blueback herring)#	Possession Prohibited	Possession Prohibited	Possession Prohibited
American Shad	Possession Prohibited	Possession Prohibited	Possession Prohibited
Hickory Shad	No size limit	5	All year
Yellowtail flounder	13	No limit	All year

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 carapace length	6	LMA 4: closed Feb 1 through March 31 LMA 6: closed Sept 8 through Nov 28 All other LMAs: open all year <i>Descriptions & locations of lobster management areas (LMAs) are available in Part 44: Lobster and Crab Regulations</i>

*Total length is the longest straight line measurement from the tip of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the longest lobe of the tail, with the lobes squeezed together, and the fish laid flat on the measuring device.

Exception: Black sea bass are measured from the tip of the snout (or jaw), with the mouth closed, to the farthest extremity of the tail, not including the tail filament.

**Anglers aboard federally permitted party or charter vessels may possess any number of Atlantic cod, consistent with federal rules.

***A party/charter boat customer who lands and possesses 2 striped bass during April 15 to December 15 or more than 30 scup during September 1 - October 31 must obtain a dated original fare receipt from the licensed vessel.

Anadromous river herring is defined in 6 NYCRR Part 10 (except the Hudson River and its tributaries and embayments north of the George Washington Bridge at river mile 11).

+ Lobsters and crabs with eggs may not be taken or possessed.

++ Peeler/shedder is when the crab is about to molt or shed its hard outer shell. At this stage, the crab has a fully formed soft shell beneath the hard outer shell. The impending shedding process is evident by the white coloration 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

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	Spinner, Blue, Shortfin mako, Oceanic whitetip, Porbeagle, Common Thresher	No size limit	one additional Atlantic Sharpnose and one additional Bonnethead may be taken and possessed per angler per trip.
	Atlantic Sharpnose, 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, Caribbean reef, Caribbean 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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