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Saltwater Fishing Regulations - Recreational

These regulations are also available as a [printable PDF \(48 KB\)](#).

Please check with the Bureau of Marine Resources (contact information at right) to ensure the fishing limits below are in effect. This summary is provided for your convenience, the official written regulations published by the Department of State are the official source for NYSDEC regulations. 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: January 30, 2015

Marine Recreational Fishing Limits

Species	Size Limits (Total Length in Inches)*	Possession Limits (Number of Fish)	Open Seasons

Find on this Page
Recreational Shark Limits
Important Links
Print copy: Marine Recreational Fishing Limits (PDF, 48 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
Bureau of Marine Resources Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources 205 North Belle Mead Road, Suite 1 East Setauket, New York 11733 631-444-0430 Send us an email
Covers

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html>

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2013 2015 2016



About this capture

266 captures

26 May 2007 - 12 Jan 2019

Winter flounder	12	2	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: marine waters (south of George Washington Bridge) <i>Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats</i>	28	2***	Apr 15 - Dec 15
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

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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	9	25 for individuals 50 for party/charter boat captain and crew	All year
American eel (New York City: Harlem and East Rivers, Hudson River and tributaries north to Troy Dam)	9 - 14 inches for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited	25 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
Oyster toadfish	10	3	July 16 - May 14
Atlantic menhaden	No size limit	100	All year
Horseshoe crabs	No size limit	5	All year

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Peeler/Shedder++			
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 April 30 through May 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.

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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
Allowed Sharks	Tiger, Blacktip, Bull, Great hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Scalloped hammerhead, Smooth hammerhead, Spinner, Blue, Shortfin mako, Oceanic whitetip, Porbeagle, Common Thresher	54 inches fork length*	One shark per vessel per trip, except that one additional Atlantic Sharpnose and one additional Bonnethead may be taken and possessed per angler per trip.
	Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Finetooth, Blacknose	No size limit	
	Smooth Dogfish, Spiny Dogfish	No size limit	Any number
Prohibited Sharks	Atlantic angel, Galapagos,	No possession allowed	No possession allowed

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		Narrowtooth, Bigeye Sixgill, Night, Bigeye thresher, Sand tiger, Bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Smalltail, Dusky, Whale, White+, Silky and Sandbar, Sharpnose sevengill, Bluntnose sixgill.		
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* 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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