



TROUT WATERS STOCKED
THIS WEEK



STATES BEGIN SETTING
NEW SEA BASS REGS



NORTH JERSEY MARINE
SANCTUARY PROPOSAL

Home » Resources » Regulations

RESOURCES

Marine Regulations

Fishing rules and regulations seem to change with the tide these days, and they vary greatly from state to state. That's why *The Fisherman* posts the current size and bag limits, seasons and licensing information covering all your favorite local species. Before heading out, check here for a state-by-state breakdown of current restrictions to ensure you'll be in compliance no matter how, when or where you fish.

CONNECTICUT

American Eel: 9" minimum size, 25/angler, no closed season

Atlantic Menhaden (Bunker): Minimum length: None, *Daily creel limit: 50 fish per angler or 5 gallons (whichever is the greater amount), Open Season: Open Year Round

Black Sea Bass: 14-inch minimum - June 1 - August 31, 3 fish per angler, September 1 - December 31, 5 fish per angler **Excluding Tail Fin Filament (Tendril)

Bluefish: No minimum size, 10/angler (including "snappers,") no closed season

Cod: 22" minimum size, 10/angler, no closed season

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

Haddock: 18" minimum size, no daily creel limit, no closed season

Hickory Shad & American Shad: No size limit, 6/angler (both species aggregate,) no closed season

***American Shad: all state waters closed except the Connecticut River

Pollock: 19" minimum size, no daily creel limit, no closed season

Scup / Porgy: Private Vessel: 10-inch minimum, May 1 - December 31, 30 fish per person.

For-Hire Bonus Season: September 1 - October 31, 45 fish per angler.

Striped Bass: No closed season, 28-inch minimum, 1 fish per person; bonus voucher program through CT DEEP

Summer Flounder/Fluke: 18-inch minimum, May 17 - September 21, 5 fish per person

Tautog / Blackfish: Minimum length: 16 inches

Open Season: April 1 - April 30, 2 fish per angler

Open Season: July 1 - August 31, 2 fish per angler

Open Season: October 10 - Dec. 6 4 fish per angler

Weakfish: 16" minimum size, 1/angler, no closed season

White Perch: 7" minimum size, 30/angler, no closed season

Winter Flounder: 12" minimum size, 2/angler, April 1 - December 31

Featured Videos



BOTTOM FISHING BAITS

The Fisherman Magazine's New Jersey editor, Chris Lido, provides the skinny on how to prepare bottom-fishing baits.



BIG PLUGS FOR BIG FISH



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Upcoming Events

11TH ANNUAL SALTWATER FISHING EXPO

March 18-20, 2016: Over the past 11 years this show has emerged as the fishing event that kicks ...

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RAHWAY FISHING FLEA MARKET

March 19, 2016: New, used, antique, custom fishing and boating items will be available to all with door ...

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J&B; SPORTSMENS 15 ANNUAL HUNTING & FISHING FLEA MARKET

50 captures
13 Jun 2012 - 28 Jan 2019

Go FEB MAR APR
15
2015 2016 2017
About this capture

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reopens 10/22-12/31 (15 fish).

Bluefish: No size limit, 10/angler, no closed season

Croaker: 8" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Porgy: 8" minimum size, 50/angler, no closed season

Red Drum: 20-27" slot size, 5/angler, no closed season

Scup (Porgy): 8" minimum size, 50/angler, no closed season

Spanish Mackerel: 14" minimum size, 10/angler, no closed season

Spotted Seatrout: 12" minimum size, No creel limit, no closed season

Striped Bass: As of 5/11/15, two fish, 28 to 37 inches or greater than 44 inches, except in Delaware Bay, River and its tributaries from 7/1-8/31 during which time angler limit is two fish from 20 to 25 inches during 'summer slot' season. No harvest permitted from spawning grounds from 4/1-5/31.

Summer Flounder: 16" minimum size, 4/angler, No Closed Season

Tautog: 15-inch minimum size for all open seasons; 5/angler Jan. 1 - March 31 and Sept. 29 - Dec. 31; 3/angler April 1 - May 11 and July 17 - Aug. 31. Season closed Sept. 1 - Sept. 28 and May 12 - July 16.

Weakfish: 13" minimum size, 1/angler, no closed season

MARYLAND

Black Sea Bass: May 19-Sept.18, Oct.18-Dec.31 12.5 inches 15 fish

Bluefish: 8" minimum size, 10/angler, no closed season

Croaker: 9" minimum size, limit 25/angler, no closed season

Flounder: 3 fish at 16 inches per person/day from April 14 to Dec. 16 in Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Waters

Herring: Moratorium

Red Drum: 18" - 27" slot limit, 1/angler, no closed season

Spanish Mackerel: 14" minimum size, 15/angler, no closed season

Striped Bass: One fish, 28 inches along Coast. In Chesapeake Bay and tributaries, one fish, 28 to 36 inches or one fish larger than 40 inches from 4/18-5/15; from 5/16-12/15 two striped bass over 20 inches, but only one may be over 28 inches. From 5/16-5/31, one fish, 20 to 26 inches on Susquehanna Flats and the Northeast River.

Tautog: 16" minimum size, 2/angler, 4/angler from January 1 - May 15 and from November 1 thru November 14; 2/angler from May 16 thru Oct 31

Weakfish: 13" minimum size, 1/angler, no closed season

White Perch: No minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Yellow Perch: 9" minimum size, 10 per day per person, no closed season

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FEB **MAR** **APR**
15
2015 **2016** **2017**

50 captures
 13 Jun 2012 - 28 Jan 2019

About this capture

Black Sea Bass: May 23 – August 27, 8 fish, 14-inch minimum.

Bluefish: No minimum size, 10/angler, no closed season

Cod: COD: NORTH OF CAPE COD Private & For-Hire – April 16 – September 1, 21-inch minimum, 9 fish per person.

SOUTH OF CAPE COD – no closed season, 22-inch minimum, 10 fish per person.

Fluke (Summer Flounder): May 22 – September 23, 5 fish, 16-inch minimum.

Haddock: Closed season September 1 to November 30 AND March 1 to April 30, 21-inch minimum, 3 fish per person.

Halibut: 41" minimum size, 1/angler, no closed season

Pollock: No minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Scup / Porgy: Private Angler: May 1 – December 31, 30 fish, 10 inch minimum.

For-Hire Bonus: May 1 – June 30, 45 fish, 10 inch minimum.

For-Hire Regular: July 1 – December 31, 30 fish, 10 inch minimum.

Shad: No minimum size, 6/angler, no closed season

Smelt: No minimum size, 50/angler, June 16 - March 14

Striped Bass: No closed season, 28-inch minimum, 1 fish per person.

Tautog / Blackfish: 16" minimum size, 3/angler, no closed season

Weakfish: 16" minimum size, 1/angler, no closed season

White Perch: 8" minimum size, 25/angler, no closed season

Winter Flounder: North of Cape Cod: 12" minimum size, 8/angler, November 1 – August 31; South and east of Cape Cod: 12" minimum size, 2/angler, April 27 – May 26 and September 28 - October 27

Yellowtail Flounder: 13" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

NEW HAMPSHIRE

American Eel: 6" minimum size, 50/angler, no closed season; fishway closures apply October 2 - June 14

American Shad: No minimum size, 2/angler, no closed season

Atlantic Salmon: 15" minimum size, 2/angler, no closed season, snagging not allowed

Bluefish: No minimum size, 10/angler, no closed season

Cod: 24" minimum size, 10/angler, November 1 - April 15; April 1 - June 30, Gulf of Maine Spawning Protection Area closed.

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

Haddock: 18" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Halibut: 41" minimum size, 1/angler/vessel, no closed season

Pollock: 19" minimum size if taken in federal waters, no creel limit, no closed season

Striped Bass: 28" minimum size, 2/angler (only 1 fish may be greater than 40"), no closed season

Summer Flounder/Fluke: 15" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Winter Flounder: 12" minimum size, 8/angler, season closed May 15 - May 24

Yellowtail Flounder: 13" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

50 captures
13 Jun 2012 - 28 Jan 2019

Go FEB MAR APR
15
2015 2016 2017
About this capture

limit of 32 inches pending hearings**

Black Sea Bass: 12-1/2" minimum open 5/23-6/19 (10 fish); 12-1/2" minimum open 7/1-8/31 (2 fish); 13" minimum open 10/22-12/31 (15 fish)

Blue Crab: 3" minimum size for peeler/shedder 3-1/2" for for soft shell 4-1/2" hard shell Limit one bushell

Bluefish: No minimum size, 15/angler, no closed season

Cobia: 37" minimum size, 2/angler, no closed season

Cod & Haddock: 21" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

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

King Mackerel: 23" minimum size, 3/angler, no closed season

Pollock: 19" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Porgy : 9" minimum size, 50/angler, Jan 1- Feb 28 and July 1-Dec 31

Red Drum: 18"-27" slot size, 1/angler, no closed season

Spanish Mackerel: 14" minimum size, 10/angler, no closed season

Striped Bass: One fish from 28 inches to less than 43 inches, one fish greater than 43 inches. No closed season 0-3 miles from shore; Delaware River from Trenton to Salem River open 3/1-3/31 and from 6/1-12/31; all other marine waters open 3/1-12/31 except beyond 3 miles which is closed year-round.

Summer Flounder: 18." minimum size, 5/angler, May 21 - Sept 25 (17" minimum size, 4/angler west of COLREGS on Delaware Bay; 16" minimum size, 2/angler at IBSP)

Tautog: 15" minimum size, January 1 - February 28 (4 fish), April 1 - April 30 (4 fish), July 17 - Nov. 15 (1 fish) and November 16- December 31-(6 fish)

Weakfish: 13" minimum size, 1/angler, no closed season

Winter Flounder: 12" minimum size, 2/angler, Mar. 1- Dec 31

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15
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About this capture

Atlantic Sturgeon: Moratorium

Black Sea Bass: 14" minimum size, 8/angler, Season July 15 - December 31.
10/angler November 1 - December 31

Blue Crab: Minimum shell width (spike to spike tip) 4.5" hard shell, 3-1/2" soft shell, 3" peeler/shedder, 50 creel limit, no closed season; All other crab species: no minimum size, 50 creel limit, no closed season

Bluefish: No minimum size for first ten fish, 12 inch minimum for additional fish, 15/angler total, no closed season

Cod: Cod: 22" minimum size, 10/angler, no closed season;

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

Fluke (Summer Flounder): 18" minimum size, 5/angler, May 17 - September 21

Haddock: 18" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Hickory Shad: No minimum size, 5/angler, no closed season

Monkfish (goosefish): 17" minimum size(11" tail length,) no creel limit, no closed season

Oyster Toadfish: 10" minimum size, 3/angler, no closed season

Pollock: 19" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Porgy (Scup): 10" minimum size, 30/angler, May 1 - December 31; charter and open boat creel limit expands to 45/angler from September 1 - October 31.

Red Drum: No minimum size, 27" maximum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Spanish Mackerel: 14" minimum size, 15/angler, no closed season

Striped Bass: Marine: 28-inch minimum, 1 fish per person, April 15 - December 15

Hudson River north of George Washington Bridge: 1 fish per person 18 - 28 inches OR greater than 40 inches, April 1 - November 30

Tautog (Blackfish): 16" minimum size, 4/angler, October 5 - December 14

Weakfish: 16" minimum size (10" filleted/12" dressed,) 1/angler, no closed season

Winter Flounder: 12" minimum size, 2/angler, April 1 - May 30

Yellowtail Flounder: 13" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

FEB **MAR** **APR**
15
2015 **2016** **2017**

[About this capture](#)

50 captures

13 Jun 2012 - 28 Jan 2019

Black Sea Bass: July 2 – August 31, 14-inch minimum, 1 fish per person.

September 1 – December 31, 14-inch minimum, 7 fish per person.

Blue Crab : Minimum shell width (spike to spike tip,) 5" hard shell, 3-1/2" soft shell, no creel limit, May 1 - November 30

Cod: 22" minimum size, 10/angler, no closed season

Haddock: 19" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Pollock: 19" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

Scup / Porgy: SHORE & PRIVATE BOAT – May 1 – December 31, 10-inch minimum, 30 fish per angler. PARTY & CHARTER BOAT: 10-inch minimum, May 1 – August 31 & November 1 – December 31, 30 fish per person. September 1 – October 31, 45 fish per person.

Striped Bass: No closed season, 28-inch minimum, 1 fish per person.

Summer Flounder/Fluke: May 1 – December 31, 18-inch minimum, 8 fish per person

Tautog / Blackfish: April 15 – May 31, August 1 – October 17, 16-inch minimum, 3 fish per person. October 18 – December 16, 16-inch minimum, 6 fish per person. Maximum of 10 fish per private vessel during all periods.

Weakfish: March 1 – December 31, 16-inch minimum, 1 fish per person.

Winter Flounder (Blackback): No closed season, 12-inch minimum, 2 fish per person. See website for restricted waters.

Yellowtail Flounder: 13" minimum size, no creel limit, no closed season

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