

Recreational Saltwater Fishing Limits

New York State Marine & Coastal District



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Before going fishing, you must:

1. Register with the NYS Recreation Marine Fishing Registry:
 - Call **1-866-933-2257** or visit <https://decals.dec.ny.gov/DECALSCitizenWeb>
2. Check the current fishing regulations in effect! For the most updated information:
 - Call **(631) 444-0430** or visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html>

The official regulation by the Department of State are the official source of DEC regulations.

Regulations were last changed on May 08, 2020 and are subject to change at any time.

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE ⁽¹⁾ (Total Length in Inches)	DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
Bluefish (including "snappers")	No size limit	3	All year
Bluefish (including "snappers") Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	No size limit	5	All year
Scup (Porgy)	9	30	All year
Scup (Porgy) ⁽²⁾ Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	9	50	Sept 1 – Oct 31
Winter flounder	12	2	April 1 - May 30
Striped bass: Hudson River (North of George Washington Bridge)	Slot Size: 18 - 28 (not less than 18" nor greater than 28")	1	April 1 - Nov 30
Striped bass: marine waters (South of George Washington Bridge)	Slot Size: 28 - 35 (not less than 28" nor greater than 35")	1	April 15 - Dec 15
Summer flounder (fluke) ⁽³⁾	19	4	May 4 - Sept 30
Black Sea Bass	15	3 7	June 23 – Aug 31 Sept 1 – Dec 31
Oyster toadfish	10	3	July 16 - May 14
Tautog (blackfish) *Long Island Sound Region	16	2 3	April 1 – April 30 Oct 11 - Dec 9
Tautog (blackfish) *NY Bight Region	16	2 4	April 1 – April 30 Oct 15 - Dec 22
American eel	9	25	All year
American eel Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	9	50	All year
American eel (New York City: Harlem and East Rivers, Hudson River to Troy Dam)	9 – 14 for use as bait only	25 for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited	All year for use as bait only, otherwise possession prohibited

For more information, or to sign-up for email updates from NYSDEC, visit our website:

www.dec.ny.gov

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SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE ⁽¹⁾ (Total Length in Inches)	DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
Atlantic cod	21	10	All year
Atlantic menhaden	No size limit	100	All year
Cobia	37	2	All year
Haddock	18	No limit	All year
Hickory shad	No size limit	5	All year
King mackerel	23	3	All year
Monkfish (goosefish)	17 11" tail length	No limit	All year
Pollock	19	No limit	All year
Red drum	No size limit	No limit for fish less than 27" TL Fish greater than 27" TL shall not be possessed	All year
Spanish mackerel	14	15	All year
Weakfish	16 10" filleted ⁽⁴⁾ 12" dressed ⁽⁵⁾	1	All year
Yellowtail flounder	13	No limit	All Year
Anadromous river herring (North of George Washington Bridge)	No size limit	10 per angler 50 per boat/day	March 15 – June 15
Anadromous river herring ⁽⁶⁾ (South of George Washington Bridge)	No possession	No possession allowed	No possession allowed
American shad	No possession	No possession allowed	No possession allowed
Atlantic sturgeon	Moratorium	No possession allowed	No possession allowed

*Tautog (blackfish) regulations vary for the Long Island Sound Region (Marine waters lying east of the Throgs Neck Bridge and west of a line that runs from Orient Point, NY to Watch Hill, RI) and NY Bight Region (Marine waters outside of the Long Island Sound Region)

(1) 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.

(2) A party/charter boat customer who lands and possesses more than 50 scup during September 1 - October 31 must obtain a dated original fare receipt from the licensed vessel.

(3) Summer flounder may not have heads or tails removed or be otherwise cleaned, cut, filleted, or skinned until brought to shore, with the following exception: the white side fillet or white skin only of a legal size fluke may be removed to use as bait. The carcass of the fluke with dark side completely intact must be retained for inspection of size limit and counts against the possession limit.

(4) The fillet length is the longest straight line measurement from end to end of any fleshy side portion of the fish cut lengthwise away from the backbone, which must have the skin intact, laid flat on the measuring device.

(5) Dressed length is the longest straight line measurement from the most anterior portion of the fish, with the head removed, to the longest lobe of the caudal fin (tail), with the caudal fin intact and with the lobes squeezed together, laid flat on the measuring device.

(6) 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).