



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

**Division of Marine Resources**

**631 444-0430**

*Please check with DEC to ensure that the requirements in this notice are in effect. The official regulations published by NYS DOS are the official source for NYS DEC regulations. **Items in red italics have pending changes.***

**MARINE RECREATIONAL  
FISHING  
LAWS AND REGULATIONS  
Effective June 23, 2016**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE (1) (Total Length in Inches)	POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
Summer flounder (fluke)(2)	18	5	May 17 - Sept 21
Winter flounder	12	2	<i>April 1 - May 30</i>
Tautog (blackfish)	16	4	Oct 5 - Dec 14
Bluefish (including "snappers")	No minimum size limit 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	1	All year
	10" filleted (3)		
	12" dressed (4)		
Atlantic cod(5)	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)	28	1	April 15 - Dec 15
Striped bass: Hudson River north of George Washington Bridge	18 – 28 or >40	1	April 1 - Nov 30
Scup (Porgy)	10	30	May 1 - Dec 31
Scup (Porgy) (6) Anglers aboard licensed party/charter boats	10	30	May 1- Dec 31
		45	Sept 1 – Oct 31
Black Sea Bass	15	3	Jun 27 – Aug 31
		8	Sept 1 - Oct 31
		10	Nov 1 – Dec 31
Atlantic sturgeon	Moratorium	No possession allowed	No possession allowed
Cobia	37	2	All year
Spanish mackerel	14	15	All year
King mackerel	23	3	All year
Red drum	No minimum size limit	No limit for fish less than 27" TL Fish greater than 27" TL shall not be possessed	All year
American eel	9	25 for individuals; 50 for party/charter captain and crew	All year

American eel (New York City: Harlem and East Rivers, Hudson River 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 (goosefish)	17 11" tail length	No limit	All year
Anadromous river herring (7)	No possession allowed	No possession allowed	No possession allowed
American shad	No possession	No possession	No possession
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
Blue crab(8) Hard shell Soft shell Peeler/Shedder(9) All other crabs (8)	4 ½" 3 ½" 3" No size limit	50	All year
Horseshoe crabs	No size limit	5	All year
American lobster(8) Recreational permit required.	3 3/8" minimum carapace length 5 ¼" maximum carapace length	6	LMA 4: closed Apr. 30 through May 31 LMA 6: closed Sept. 8 through Nov. 28 All other LMAs: open all year

**(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)** 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.

**(3)** 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.

**(4)** 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.

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

**(6)** A party/charter boat customer who lands and possesses more than 30 scup during September 1 – October 31 must obtain a dated original fare receipt from the licensed vessel.

**(7)** 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).

**(8)** Lobsters and crabs with eggs may not be taken or possessed.

**(9)** Peeler/shredder 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.



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**Recreational Fishing Regulations for Sharks**

For further information call NMFS Fisheries

Information Line at (301) 427-8503

Category	Species	Minimum Size Limit	Daily Possession Limit
Allowed Sharks	Tiger, Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Blue, Shortfin mako, Oceanic whitetip, Porbeagle, Common Thresher, Blacknose	54 inches fork length (1)	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.
	Great hammerhead, Scalloped hammerhead, Smooth hammerhead	78 inches fork length (1)	
	Atlantic sharpnose, Bonnethead, Finetooth, Blacknose	No size limit	
	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, Dusky, Whale, White (2), Silky, Sandbar, Sharpnose Sevengill, Bluntnose Sixgill	No possession allowed	No possession allowed

**(1)** Fork length means the straight-line 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.

**(2)** 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. Sharks, excluding spiny dogfish, shall not be taken for commercial or recreational purposes by baited hooking except with the use of non-stainless steel non-offset circle hooks. No person shall conduct, sponsor or participate in any shark tournament unless said tournament's rules and regulations require the exclusive use of non-stainless steel, non-offset circle hooks.