

Recreational Crab, Lobster & Whelk Limits

Effective June 23, 2016



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

NYS Recreation Marine Fishing Registry is **not required for taking crab and whelk recreationally.**
A Recreational Lobster Permit is required, please contact the Marine Permit Office at (631) 444-0470.

These regulations may change, please visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html> for the most updated version. **The official regulation by the Department of State are the official source of DEC regulations.**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE (Total Length in Inches)	DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS (Number of Fish)	OPEN SEASONS
American lobster (10) Recreational permit required.	3 3/8" minimum carapace length 5 1/4" 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
Blue crab (10) Hard shell Soft shell Peeler/Shedder (11)	4 1/2" 3 1/2" 3"	50	All year
Crabs# (except blue or blue-claw crabs)	No size limit	50	All year
Horseshoe crabs	No size limit	5	All year
Whelk	No size limit	24	All year

(10) Lobsters and crabs in spawn (eggs visible thereon) may not be taken or possessed.

(11) Peeler or shedder crabs are hard blue crabs which have a fully formed soft shell beneath the hard outer shell and the impending shedding process is evidenced by the white sign along the outer rim of the paddle-like appendages on the crab's fifth pair of legs