

# Recreational Crab, Lobster & Whelk Limits

## Effective March 28, 2018



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
<b>American lobster (10)</b> Recreational permit required.	<b>3 3/8"</b> minimum carapace length <b>5 1/4"</b> maximum carapace length	<b>6</b>	<b>LMA 4:</b> closed Apr. 30 through May 31 <b>LMA 6:</b> closed Sept. 8 through Nov. 28 <b>All other LMAs:</b> open all year
<b>Blue crab (10)</b>  <b>Hard shell</b> <b>Soft shell</b> <b>Peeler/Shedder (11)</b>	<b>4 1/2"</b> <b>3 1/2"</b> <b>3"</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Crabs#</b> (except blue or blue-claw crabs)	<b>No size limit</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Horseshoe crabs</b>	<b>No size limit</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>Whelk</b>	<b>No size limit</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>All year</b>

**(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

**Other provisions:** Terrapin Excluder Devices (TEDs) must be used on all non-collapsible crab pots or traps that are fished in creeks, coves, rivers, tributaries, and near-shore harbors of the Marine and Coastal District. TEDs shall be securely fastened inside each funnel entrance of the crab pot to effectively reduce the size of the funnel opening to no larger than 4-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 1-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>".