

# Recreational Crab, Lobster & Whelk Limits

## New York State Marine & Coastal District



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

### The regulations listed below are currently in effect.

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 #</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 #</b>  <b>Hard shell</b> <b>Soft shell</b> <b>Peeler/Shedder*</b>	  <b>4 1/2"</b> <b>3 1/2"</b> <b>3"</b>	  <b>50</b>	  <b>All year</b>
<b>Jonah crab #</b>	<b>4 3/4"</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>All year</b>
<b>All Other Crabs #</b>	<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>

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

(\*) 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. An interactive map is available for reference, visit <https://arcg.is/GG8jH>. 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 4-3/4" x 1-3/4".

